

Hafa Adai!

King-Nabors will likely chair Tinian delegation. **PAGE 2**
US gains 21 new naturalized citizens. **PAGE 3**

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'Egg-asperated' with rising prices

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

At the rate the price of eggs is going these days, don't be surprised if your significant other swaps roses with a dozen eggs as your Valentine's Day gift this coming Feb. 14.

A quick check at some of the leading groceries on island pegs the cost of this food staple at \$6.99 for a dozen of extra-large-sized eggs and \$5.99 for large-sized eggs.

The nearly 50% increase in egg prices these past couple of months has forced many

See **PRICES** on **Page 4**



MARK RABAGO

The cost of eggs at most groceries now come in at \$6.99 for a dozen of extra-large-sizes and \$5.99 for large-sized ones.



MARK RABAGO

Lettuce are on display at the grocery shelves of Joeten Hafadai Shopping Center in Garapan.

DeLeon Guerrero eyes joint legislative working group to assess CNMI gov't's financial status

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) has proposed a combined working group of the Senate and House



DeLeon Guerrero

» **DeLeon Guerrero requests Finance to allow Legislature's fiscal analysts to have access to financial management system Munis**

of Representatives leadership to review and assess the CNMI government's financial status.

In a letter to House

Speaker Edmund S. Villago-
mez (Ind-Saipan) last Thurs-
day, DeLeon Guerrero said the working group's assess-

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1st gas price increase of 2023

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The CNMI saw its first gas price increase of 2023, and the first rise in months, yesterday afternoon.

Mobil Oil Marianas took the lead

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The CNMI saw its first gas price increase of 2023, and the first rise in months, yesterday afternoon.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES



INSIDE



BUSINESS

Kamakazee's restaurant finally reopens with a revamped and even more delicious menu.

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WORLD

Ukraine said the death toll from a Russian strike has risen to 40 and 30 remain missing.

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LIFE & STYLE

Italian film legend Gina Lollobrigida, died in Rome on Monday, her agent said. She was 95.

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Local

King-Nabors will likely chair Tinian delegation

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian) will likely be elected chairman of the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation during their organizational session today, Wednesday.

King-Nabors won a Senate seat in the November 2020 general election. His current term ends in January 2025. He served as chairman of the 22nd Senate Judiciary, Government, Law and Federal Relations Committee.

A Senate source disclosed yesterday that TALD members may also likely select Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider as vice chairman, Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz as floor leader, and Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas as secretary. All TALD members are Republicans.

The TALD organizational session will be held in the Senate chamber at 1:30pm.

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation members will hold an organizational session this Friday at 10am in the House of Representatives chamber. Rep.

John Paul Sablan (Ind-Saipan) is expected to be elected as SNILD chairman.

The Rota Legislative Delegation members, on the other hand, will hold an organi-

zational session at the Rota Mayor's Office conference room this Monday, Jan. 23, at 10am. Sen. Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota) is likely to be selected as RLD chairman.

Manglona, Magofna want to meet with MVA on status of China tourism market

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Sens. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) and Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan) have called for a meeting with the Marianas Visitors Authority to determine the status of the CNMI's tourism industry, particularly the China tourism market.

Manglona chairs the Senate Committee on Federal Relations, while Magofna is chairperson of the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs, and Gaming.

The senators invited MVA board of directors acting chair Gloria C. Cavanagh and MVA acting managing director Judy C. Torres for a meeting today, Wednesday, at 9am, in the Senate chamber.

Manglona and Magofna said they are concerned about the status of the CNMI's tourism industry and the factors impeding the growth and expansion of the industry. They are specifically interested in the China tourism market due to the negative and adverse media reports regarding China.

The senators asked what, if any, federal regulations, laws, or policies can assist the CNMI to boost the number of charter flights and grow the Chinese tourism market.

Manglona and Magofna noted that the CNMI's tourism industry is still recovering from the devastating consequences of Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018 and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which started in March 2020.

See **MANGLONA** on Page 4



Getaway PACKAGES

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U.S. District Court for the NMI magistrate judge Heather Kennedy, leftmost, poses with the 21 newly naturalized U.S. citizens at the CNMI federal courthouse.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

citizens, Solomon shared that she herself was also an immigrant in the United States before becoming naturalized back in 2010.

See **CITIZENS** on Next Page

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By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**

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REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI swore in 21 new U.S. citizens in a special naturalization ceremony yesterday in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

U.S. District Court for the NMI magistrate judge Heather Kennedy administered the oath of allegiance to 21 newly naturalized U.S. citizens in special ceremony at the CNMI federal courthouse.

Yesterday's ceremony saw the naturalization of Rommel Tomas Angulo, Pinina Bote Cambroner, Azgar Ali Chokider, Consuelo Relano Cruz, Josefino Duenas Cruz, John Samuel Darag, Rolando Garcia Dela Cruz, Vivienne Dispo Dela Cruz, Angel Nino Talaue Deray, Rosalito Velasco Estaque, Ronalyn Bautista Feffer, Renato Legapa Iglesias, Yolly Miclat Laborce, Bello Alidon Lumintegar, Bernarda Sabugo Montecarlo, Marilou Bruegas Ortega, Loida Fuentebella Pak, Jose Carlos Sula, Irene Alegre Valencia, Ramon Espinoza Valencia, and Rogelio Manzano Valencia.

While congratulating the newly naturalized citizens, Kennedy stated that diversity is the strength of the United States, the Commonwealth, and mostly the judicial system.

She stated that it's through diversity that the judicial system is able to provide justice, especially through jury trials as a diverse, impartial jury pool ensures a fair trial for each citizen, should they face one.

Using this as a segue, Kennedy encouraged the new citizens to practice their new-found right to vote in the United States as this opens the door for them to one day be part of a jury.

The new citizens also heard a touching speech from Dr. Beyful Solomon, an associate professor at the Northern Marianas College's School of Education's Rehabilitation and Human Services.

Like the newly naturalized

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ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**NORTHERN
MARIANAS HOUSING,
Plaintiff,
-v-
RAMON S. DELA CRUZ
and REBECCA C.
DELA CRUZ,
Defendants.**

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 14, 2022, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property:

Lot no. 001 G 74, containing an area of 729 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 001 G 03, the original of which was recorded 20 March 1986 as Document no. 86-0510 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Total area of the property:
729 square meters

Known encumbrances:

A mortgage in favor of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

Date, Time, and Places of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 27, 2023, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. A copy of the title insurance report for the property is available to any prospective bidder upon request. A copy of the mortgage in favor of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, a plat map showing the boundaries of the above-described property, a map of the property's location in Saipan, a copy of this Notice, and a copy of the Court's Order of October 14, 2022, are available for inspection and copying at the offices of the undersigned. Prospective bidders can view and inspect the property at any time during normal business hours. The sale may be postponed by the undersigned at any time.

Terms of Conditions of the Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

Additional Terms and Conditions. A deposit of 10% of the successful bid is payable to the undersigned by the close of business of the date of sale, and the balance of the successful bid is to be paid within three (3) working days thereafter. The purchase price will be held in escrow pending approval of the sale by the Court. The sale is subject to the Court's approval. Upon approval by the Court, a Certificate of Sale will be issued to the successful purchaser upon satisfying the terms of payment. The sale is also subject to statutory redemption rights for 12 months following the date of sale. If the property is not redeemed during the redemption period, a Quitclaim Deed will issue, conveying title to the purchaser.

DATED, this 9th day of December, 2022.

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PACIFICPOINTS

IT&E

Man gets 15 years in prison for sexually assaulting minor

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has sentenced a man to an imprisonment term of 15 years for sexually assaulting a minor starting when she was just about 4 years old.

Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan sentenced Rodney Olopai Laniyo, 42, to serve 15 years in prison for one count of sexual abuse of a minor in second degree.

He pleaded guilty to the charges against him last Jan. 12.

Part of his sentence was suspended and Laniyo will still serve 12 years in prison, without the possibility of parole, early release, work or weekend release, holiday furlough, or any other similar program. The court also gave Laniyo credit for 157 days of time-served.

Following his release from prison, Laniyo will be placed on supervised probation for 10 years.

Laniyo is prohibited from contacting the victim. In addition, he shall register as a sex offender and comply with the CNMI Sex Offender Registry rules.

Back in August 2022, Laniyo was facing four charges: sexual abuse of a minor in the first, second, and third degrees, and incest, which carried a \$100,000 cash bail.

According to court documents, Laniyo sexually abused the minor in the past 14 years, starting when she



was only around 4 years old. The victim told police that Laniyo has had sexual encounters with her through the years, including intercourse, and would tell her not to tell anybody.

Court documents states that Department of Public Safety officers

were dispatched to a home in Dan Dan back in April 20, 2021, to respond to a sexual abuse of a minor report that happened 14 years ago. It was not explained why it took over a year for the alleged perpetrator to be arrested following the report.

PRICES

From Page 1

on Saipan to reconsider their breakfast options.

Cherry Velasco-Lumbana said they've already cut their consumption of eggs due to its prohibitive cost. Good thing, the mother of four from Fina Sisu has a sister who has egg-laying hens.

"So, I just ask for eggs from her now," she said.

Velasco-Lumbana said they used to consume a dozen eggs a week, but it's now down to 3-4 eggs.

With eggs coming in at almost \$7 a crate, Mabelle Subang has also been forced to budget the number of eggs she cooks for breakfast.

But don't tell what Velasco-Lumbana and Subang do to Tisha Ferrer, a mother of two who lives in Garapan. "We can't live without eggs. So I just close my eyes whenever I buy one. No choice because we just love eggs."

Ferrer said they usually consume a dozen eggs a week and their favorite dish is making them into an egg salad spread that requires them to boil six eggs at one time.

Households are not the only ones affected by the meteoric rise in the cost of eggs, as Saipan's restaurants have had to make hard choices on their menu options as well.

This comes as the price of lettuce has doubled the past few months, peaking at \$10 during the past holiday season.

BAB Korean Restaurant's Dante Suarez Conlu said they are looking at raising the prices of their popular Cup BAB menu because of the double whammy of the cost of eggs and

lettuce going up. He said they use a lot of eggs and lettuce in their bibimbap and kimchi fried rice dishes.

"If you've noticed lately we changed lettuce to cabbage in our Cup BAB, but for eggs we really don't have any alternatives. In our buffet, we still use lettuce because there's no other option," he said.

D' Chef's Kitchen & Bar chef Rico Delos Reyes said the crazy prices eggs and lettuce are fetching these days has affected his business because they use those ingredients for most of their food.

And it's not just the eggs and lettuce that had incredible spikes in costs these past few months. It has come to a point where he has no choice but to also increase the price of items at D' Chef's Kitchen & Bar.

"It's not just because of the high prices of egg and lettuce alone. Our price increase is long overdue. We keep on stretching because we really don't want to change our prices for our customers. But the continued price increase of a lot of food ingredients gives us no choice but to change our prices a little," he said.

A perfect example, he said, is the price of cooking oil. Delos Reyes said a 5-gallon container of cooking oil used to cost only \$28.99, but now it retails at a whopping \$54.99.

"So, if we'll have our price increase, I think our customers will surely understand it and we are thankful for that," he added.

Chowtime owner Anna Liza Alcantara doesn't fully understand the rise in the cost of eggs and lettuce and described them as "unjustified."

"It's hard to increase our prices to reflect the rise in the cost of our ingredients. Our customers will have a hard time accepting that, especial-

ly those who don't really earn a lot and rely on food stamps to get by," she said.

Perhaps the only silver lining in the rising cost of eggs nowadays is that you don't have to pair your purchase of a dozen eggs with another item when using your credit card in grocery stores, where there's a \$5 minimum purchase.

JCT Enterprises vice president Roman "Bo" Palacios said the rise in egg and lettuce prices is due to an ongoing bird flu epidemic and drought in California, where the CNMI's supply of the green leafy vegetable comes from.

JCT Enterprises is a wholesale supplier of eggs and lettuce, among other food items.

"There's a bird flu that basically resulted in the killing of a lot of chickens and these are egg-laying chickens in the United States. So, what had happened was these egg producers had to kill off millions of their chickens and that basically resulted in the shortage of supply of eggs," he said.

While he doesn't know when the bird flu epidemic in the U.S. mainland will end and hopefully ease the egg shortage, Palacios sees the wet weather California is currently enduring as a godsend for farmers in the state.

"Hopefully, with all the rain that California is getting right now that helps solve the drought issue, but these things are lagging because it takes some time to grow and produce lettuce. But we at Joeten, as soon as we see a stabilization in pricing, we immediately pass those savings on to the customer," he added.

So, a dozen eggs with some leaves of lettuce on the side for the Day of Hearts?

GAS

From Page 1

with the unexpected fuel price hike yesterday afternoon, bringing it up by 15 cents within the first few weeks of January.

What made the increase so surprising, according to some residents, is that the price of fuel has been gradually dropping in the last few months, just to be hit with an increase early into the new year.

Late yesterday afternoon, Mobil Oil increased its Extra and Supreme fuel by 15 cents. Although Shell Marianas had yet to increase its prices yesterday, the two oil companies typically mirror each other's price adjustments. Shell Marianas is expected to increase its prices today.

With this latest increase, a gallon of Mobil's Extra Fuel has gone up from \$4.96 a gallon to \$5.11. Supreme Fuel also saw a price hike from \$5.41 per gallon to \$5.56 while diesel saw a slight drop from \$6.08 to \$6.03 per gallon.

The CNMI had seen several increases in fuel prices over the last half of 2022. The latest increase was back in October 2022, but it was short-

lived as fuel prices saw a number of rollbacks in the following months, with gas reaching the \$4 mark back in December.

According to a 39-year-old local motorist, she wasn't expecting an increase so soon.

"I was a bit shocked to pull up to the gas pump to find that gas had increased 15 cents. I mean I expected an increase, but maybe around March or February. We're so early into the New Year and we're hit with an increase, it was unexpected," she said.

Another motorist, a 43-year-old man, was not as surprised. "We've been blessed with a number of rollbacks and it's been good, considering gas was at the \$7 mark early last year. We were bound to see an increase soon. Fifteen cents won't break the bank right now but if this trend continues—which I hope it doesn't—it may," he said.

A worker at Mobil stated that they were just as surprised as everyone else.

"We aren't informed beforehand of any increase so, just like the public, we were surprised. We can only hope that gas won't get ridiculously high again like last year. But who knows," he said.

MANGLONA

From Page 2

in the CNMI.

While the CNMI has been fortunate to receive federal appropria-

tions, including the American Rescue Plan Act funds, to mitigate and recover from these devastations, it appears that the CNMI economy and tourism haven't bounced back to pre-pandemic economic numbers, they said.

STATUS

From Page 1

ment must focus on the American Rescue Plan Act fund balance left by the past Torres administration, and whether or not the fiscal year 2023 budget requires any amendments.

In addition to the Senate and House leadership members, the Legislature's two fiscal analysts must participate and provide guidance to the working group, she said.

"As leaders of the 23rd CNMI Legislature, I trust that you share the same concerns regarding the current CNMI government's financial status," DeLeon Guerrero told Villagomez.

The president said she looks forward to Villagomez's favorable re-

sponse so that they may schedule meeting dates as soon as possible.

DeLeon Guerrero also requested Department of Finance acting secretary Tracy B. Norita last Friday to allow the fiscal analysts of the Legislature to have access to the CNMI government's financial management information system, called Munis, in order for the Legislature to effectively and efficiently perform its work pertaining to the government's financial status.

She said the Legislature's fiscal analysts had access to the former system, JD Edward. She said this authorization was critical to the analysts in providing the necessary and most appropriate guidance to legislative members.

According to a 2022 transition report on the Department of Finance, a preliminary reconciliation has de-

termined that the CNMI received \$481.8 million in ARPA funds but, as of Dec. 27, 2022, it has overspent and overcommitted and has a deficit of \$86 million.

ARPA was used to fund disaster-related expenditures pending reimbursements amounting to approximately \$48.7 million. Upon reimbursements, the transition report disclosed, the ARPA deficit will be reduced to \$37.4 million.

Among the recommendations of the transition report are to cease the 25% additional retiree pension payment until the government stabilizes its current financial state, initiate a revision to the ARPA spending plan with U.S. Treasury, and collaborate with the Office of Management & Budget to revise the fiscal year 2023 budget.

CITIZENS

From Page 3

"Not so long ago, I was sitting in your shoes, waiting to get naturalized. But before that, I remember how long it took to get a visa. I remember going through immigration and going through a separate line filled with people like me who had red passports and facing more scrutiny than those who held different passports. That's where my journey began," she said.

Solomon said that, like herself, becoming a citizen of the United States opens a window of opportunity for each and everyone of the new citizens.

"It really boils down to one word—opportunity. Citizenship provided me and provides you with an opportu-

nity to work in any industry that you choose without worrying about what visa you hold. You can now apply for all kinds of federal financial aid to go to school, and overall it provides you the opportunity to change your destiny, your family's, and the destiny of your generations to come starting from this day. The opportunities are endless," she said.

She reminded everyone that with great opportunity comes the responsibility to give back to the country that gave them endless opportunities.

"You have the responsibility to become an active citizen. This means you now need to take part in this great democracy. But never forget where you came from, continue to share your culture because that's what makes America so great. Diversity," she said.

MCS Theatre Club presents jukebox musical, *True Colors*



Kyla Cabrera, center, directs Bernice Sabino, left, as Iris and Joey Hong as Luke through a scene in the next production by Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club, *True Colors*, an original jukebox musical.

Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club proudly presents its next theatrical production, *True Colors*, an original jukebox musical about a girl on the autism spectrum who struggles to find her place and her voice at a new school. As a jukebox musical, the show will blend an original script with pop music favorites from the 1970s through the present, including the show's title song from Cyndi Lauper.

The show is directed by senior and Theatre Club veteran Kyla Cabrera, who also co-directed the club's production of *The Sound of Music* last year. In preparing for the production, she said, "Directing this production for me has been an absolute honor and dream. I get to work with so many people who are at different levels of experience and expertise. ...I am truly in awe having seen my cast and crew develop as professionals under the guidance of great [advisers]. Witnessing everyone come together to work on this production is what makes me truly grateful and proud to be its director." Junior student Bernice Shane Sabino, who played Maria in last year's *The Sound of Music*, is back to play another lead role, this time as Iris, the central character of the story who is on the autism spectrum. Falling on the non-verbal side of the spectrum, Iris communicates primarily through song and dance. While both come naturally for Bernice, who is an esteemed local vocalist, representing autism with dignity and authenticity was a challenge for her. "Getting this role was especially challenging because I have never played a role like this before," she said. Despite that difficulty, Sabino said, "Thankfully, I had a lot of help in finding ways to portray this character with respect. ...This is our chance to speak out for voices that aren't being heard."

To help ensure that the overall show was sensitive toward disabilities, the school enlisted the support of Eileen Babauta, the director for the CNMI's University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. Babauta brought in disability self-advocates from the CNMI's Consumer Advisory Committee to talk and work with students, helping them learn more about creating a more inclusive and accessible atmosphere for everyone.

The script for *True Colors* was written by Theatre club founder and Northern Marianas College president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Ed.D., who wanted to further explore autism and how it affects adolescents. He said, "Being a teenager is hard enough as it is, so when we add autism to the mix, it challenges all of us to examine how inclusive we are for those who are different and who struggle to fit in. ...And what better way to do that than

through the performing arts?" He further noted, "The music, choreography, acting, sound, lights, and overall art design will help accentuate that struggle within a theatrical context, making it more visceral and engaging for actors and audiences alike."

Echoing Deleon Guerrero's sentiments, Cabrera said, "We approached the story with re-

spect as our main character is on the autism spectrum and we want to be able to portray her character properly." She added, "I know that the audience will find this production very relatable and intimate, and in a way, allow themselves to witness and see each person's true colors through the show before their eyes."

True Colors will be present-

ed on Jan. 27 and 28 at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret with doors opening at 6:30pm each night. Tickets are \$25 for limited premium seats and \$10 for general admission, and may be purchased at the Mount Carmel School Business Office. For more information, call 234-6184 or visit www.mount-carmelsaipan.com. (MCS)

Emergency water service interruptions today

There will be an emergency water service interruption today, Jan. 18, 2023, from 8:30am to 12:30pm in the areas of Capital Hill, Talafofo, Egigi Drive, Wireless Ridge, and Papago.

This will allow water operators of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to repair a leak on the main service lateral located on Marshall Loop on Capital Hill. Customers should expect normal water service soon after.


For the safety of the men and women working at the repair site, motorists are advised to proceed with caution and/or take an alternative route, if necessary, as a portion of the road will be closed for the repairs.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Face-

book page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)



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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2023


Opening date: January 09, 2023	Closing date: January 27, 2023
Location: SAIPAN	SALARY
Position(s): (1) Receptionist/Secretary (1) Ports Police Officer I	PL 5/1 to 5/12 (\$8.83/hr. to \$15.10/hr.) PL 7/1 to 7/12 (\$9.73/hr. to \$16.65/hr.)
Location: PORT OF SAIPAN	SALARY
Position(s): (1) General Maintenance III	PL 7/1 to 7/12 (\$9.73/hr. to \$16.65/hr.)
Location: TINIAN	SALARY
Position(s): (2) General Maintenance I (2) Custodial I (4) Ports Police/ARFF Trainee	PL 2/1 to 2/12 (\$7.63/hr. to \$13.04/hr.) PL 1/1 to 1/12 (\$7.26/hr. to \$12.42/hr.) PL 5/1 (\$8.83/hr.)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport**. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, January 27, 2023**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Division
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514 | Email: cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net | Website: <http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com>

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 5 A. of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("NMHC") Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery ("CDBG-DR") Program's Action Plan ("AP"), as amended (2022), this is to notify the general public about this proposed Substantial Amendment No. 02 and afford citizen participation and the opportunity to comment on this proposed amendment. The general public has thirty (30) days from publication date of this Public Notice to submit comments on these proposed changes to the CDBG-DR AP. Substantial amendments are required when there is a change in program benefit/eligibility criteria, addition/deletion of an activity, or reallocation of substantial amounts. A substantial amendment will also be required if any program changes exceed five million dollars (\$5,000,000). Substantial amendments must provide a reasonable opportunity (at least 30 days) for citizen comment. All changes must be documented by NMHC's CDBG-DR Program to provide both necessary and reasonable justifications. All substantial amendments will include the following:


1. The exact identification of which content is being added, deleted, or changed;
2. A clear description of where funds are moved from/to; and
3. The updated and revised budget after re-allocation of funding.

Furthermore, the proposed substantial amendment will be available via the CNMI CDBG-DR website at www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com and hardcopies may be obtained at any of the NMHC central and CDBG-DR offices located on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota by those who do not have access to the Internet. Notifying the public is of paramount importance as these funds are largely dependent on public participation and the remaining unmet need to be assessed. NMHC will utilize the following avenues/outlets to notify the public of the CDBG-DR Program:

- Notices in the local newspaper
- Radio announcements
- Social media
- CNMI CDBG-DR website


Finally, NMHC will take reasonable steps to ensure very low-, low-, and moderate-income persons, including persons with disabilities, the elderly and persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) have meaningful access and an equal opportunity to participate in this important CDBG-DR activity and in accordance to prescribed policies and procedures embedded in the CDBG-DR Program's Citizen Participation Plan. The aforesaid and complete Citizen Participation Plan may be accessed at the CNMI CDBG-DR website: www.cnmi-cdbg-dr.com or found on Section 5 on the CDBG-DR Action Plan (pages 80-85). A copy of the CDBG-DR Action Plan, as amended by this proposed change, may be accessed at the CNMI CDBG-DR website at: www.cnmi-cdbg-dr.com or obtained at any of the NMHC offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Written comments are due by January 27, 2023 and may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.




Tinian Field Office
Tel: (670)433-9213
Fax: (670)433-3690

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"



Rota Field Office
Tel: (670)532-9410
Fax: (670)532-9441



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:	Opening Date	Closing Date
2023-007	CDBG-DR Loan Specialist (1-Position)	UNGRADED \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00 Per annum	January 17, 2023	February 1, 2023 4:00 PM
2023-008	CDBG-DR Compliance Specialist (1-Position)	UNGRADED \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00 Per annum	January 17, 2023	February 1, 2023 4:00 PM

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net and www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Lau Lau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
Zenie P. Mafnas
Acting-Corporate Director

GRMC donation helps GFD detect stroke in patients

DEDEDO, Guam—The Guam Regional Medical City recently donated glucometers, lancets, and glucose strips to the Guam Fire Department to assist paramedics when assessing patients to help distinguish between those who exhibit signs of stroke and those with hypoglycemia symptoms.



Prior to GRMC’s donation, glucometers were not readily available in all emergency medical service units due to limited supply.

GFD Fire chief Dan Stone said that GRMC’s donation will “allow us to provide glucometers for all our response vehicles, which is a huge force



Jodeen Mendiola, Guam Regional Medical City director of Adult Clinical Services, and Jennifer Cruz, GRMC chief nursing officer, pose with members of the Guam Fire Department after the donations of glucometers, lancets, and glucose strips.

GRMC



Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting

February 1, 2023 | 5:00 PM
Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center
Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666
www.cnmizoning.com

AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of 02/01/2023 Meeting Agenda
4. Adoption of 11/29/2022 and 01/04/2023 Meeting Minutes
5. Public Comments (not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:

1. **Conditional Use Application #2022-0014** – Ma. Jyn R. Binghit & George Binghit are proposing to utilize an existing structure measuring 31'.2" (L) x 16'.4" (W) for its "Warehousing & General Wholesaling" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 002 H 10 in the village of Susupe. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
2. **Conditional Use Application #2022-0015** – Mariana Water Tour, Inc is proposing to utilize an existing structure measuring 104' (L) x 45' (W) for its "Gas Station, Light Repair" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 015 D 92 & 015 D 84 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
3. **Conditional Use Application #2022-0016** – Pacific Rich, LLC dba Home of Beautiful Land is proposing to utilize the 2nd & 3rd floor of an existing building measuring 65'.5" (L) x 65'.5" (W) x 9' (H) for its "Hotel/Motel/Guest House" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 009 D 67 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Beach Road

C. New Business

1. Election of Officers
2. Adoption of Blighted Properties Regulations

D. Miscellaneous

1. Administrator's Updates
2. Permit & Enforcement Report
3. Next meeting

E. Adjournment

In an effort to provide public access to this meeting during this pandemic, the Commonwealth Zoning Board will host this meeting via:

Zoom Video Communications
Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/6853007492>
Meeting Code: 685 300 7492



multiplier for us because now, up first at a particular call, if that equipment is needed, [the

glucometers] happen to be available, instead of having to wait for the unit that has them to get there, so patient care starts much faster.”

In addition to the donation, GRMC will also continue to supplement these supplies to GFD as needed. There are also plans to collaborate on future trainings, one of which will include paramedic trainings for stroke emergencies.

GRMC chief nursing officer Jennifer Cruz said, “GRMC is happy to partner with GFD by providing the much-needed glucose machines to help their medics properly assess if a patient is having a stroke versus low blood sugar. We look forward to our partnership with GFD to help our community as Guam’s only Joint Commission certified advanced primary stroke center.”

In May 2022, GRMC was awarded the Gold Seal of Approval by The Joint Commission for “Advanced Primary Stroke Center.” Subsequently, the U.S. News and World Report selected GRMC as one of the nation’s “High Performing” hospitals for stroke care for 2022-2023. (PR)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) hereby give notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 8 a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at BPL-HCPLB Conference Room, Building #1242, Pohnpei Court, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (10/26/22 and 12/14/2022)
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairperson's Report
 - Courtesy Resignations
- VII. Director's Report
 - Notification for Adoption on the Proposed Amendments for Psychology & Physicians (effective Jan 09, 2023).
 - Energov Update
- VIII. Investigator's Report
- IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
 - A. Governor's Office
 - B. Legislature
- X. Old Business
- XI. New Business
 - Election of Officers for 2023-2024
- XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
 - A. New Application
 - B. Renewal Application
- XIII. Miscellaneous Business
 - A. 2023 Annual National Councils Meeting Schedule
- XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
 - A. Request for an Oversight on a Dental Clinic Providing Substandard Services
- XV. Announcements
 - A. Next Meeting Date
 - B. Adjournment of Meeting

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Ma. Jyn R. Binghit & George Binghit

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Ma. Jyn R. Binghit & George Binghit are proposing to utilize an existing structure measuring 31'.2" (L) x 16'.4" (W) for its "Warehousing & General Wholesaling" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 002 H 10 in the village of Susupe. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: Feb. 1, 2023
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, Jan. 31, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Cecilia Taitano, Acting Chair

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Pacific Rich, LLC dba Home of Beautiful Land

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Pacific Rich, LLC dba Home of Beautiful Land is proposing to utilize the 2nd & 3rd floor of an existing building measuring 65'.5" (L) x 65'.5" (W) x 9' (H) for its "Hotel/Motel/Guest House" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 009 D 67 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Beach Road.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: Feb. 1, 2023
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/s/ Cecilia Taitano, Acting Chair

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Mariana Water Tour, Inc.

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Mariana Water Tour, Inc is proposing to utilize an existing structure measuring 104' (L) x 45' (W) for its "Gas Station, Light Repair" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a conditional use. The site is located on Lot No. 015 D 92 & 015 D 84 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: Feb. 1, 2023
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, Jan. 31, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to zoningboard@cnmizoning.com, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Cecilia Taitano, Acting Chair

NOAA partners with UOG for islandwide reef survey

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Coral Reef Monitoring Program is engaging students at the University of Guam to conduct an islandwide survey to collect information on residents' use of coral reefs and their knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions of coral reef ecosystems and coral reef management. It is part of a larger effort to improve coral reef conservation programs at local, regional, and national levels.



Jones, interim dean of the School of Business and Public Administration; and Amanda Blas, associate director of the Global Learning and Engagement Department at UOG, the survey team will involve UOG students, including AmeriCorps members, UOG's Center for Island Sustainability, and the Global Learning and Engagement Department.

Guam village mayors' offices are also collaborating with the research team to support survey outreach and facilitation for residents who are un-

able to complete the survey in person at home.

Through this partnership, students will be trained in social science surveying techniques and gain real-world research experience in the field.

Household residents across the island will be randomly selected and invited to participate in the survey, which will be offered in English, Korean, Chuukese, and CHamoru. The survey should take no longer than 20 minutes. Residents invited to take the survey will have the opportunity to take it

in person or online. The goal is to survey 740 Guam residents by the end of the semester.

The results from this survey are instrumental to help NOAA and the government of Guam improve coral reef conservation and the services coral reef ecosystems provide for communities. Also, the survey results will inform future communication products and research projects on coral reefs.

"Residents' participation in this survey is important so that the diverse voices of Guam are represented.

This is critical for equitable and effective conservation, as coral reef management depends on understanding how people interact with and depend upon these special ecosystems," said Dr. Mary Allen, National Coral Reef Monitoring Program socioeconomic lead.

This is the second resident survey conducted in Guam by NOAA's National Coral Reef Monitoring Program and results will provide critical insights into how social conditions have changed

since the first survey was conducted in 2016. Participation in the survey is voluntary and confidential, but residents are encouraged to participate if invited. A more inclusive survey results in better quality information for use by managers of Guam's coral reefs and coastal communities.

For more information about this project and participating in this survey if contacted, see: https://www.coris.noaa.gov/monitoring/socioeconomic_guam_survey.html (UOG)

Water interruptions in San Roque, Achugao, Tanapag

There will be a series of scheduled water service interruptions in the areas of San Roque, Achugao and Tanapag on Jan. 21, 28, and Feb. 4, 2023, from 8am to 5pm. Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the affected areas may experience low water pressure to no water during the interruption period.

These interruptions are intended to allow CUC's contractor for the "Lower Base to San Roque Cut and Cap of Parallel Line" project to cut and cap the parallel lines connected to the 6-inch pipes and to relocate the PVC pipes and install 6-inch gate valves along Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Lower Base to the San Roque Area.

In addition, CUC water operators will be repairing a damaged 12-inch mainline leak on Chalan Pale fronting Aqua Resort Club in San Roque. Customers should expect normal water services soon after.

For the safety of the men

and women at the jobsite, proceed with caution and/or take alternative routes during the period of the waterline repairs as a portion of the road will be closed during the Jan. 21 repair on Chalan Pale in front of Aqua Resort Club.

CUC appreciates the public's understanding and cooperation during this emergency water service interruption.

This project is part of the LB-SR Cut and Cap Parallel Line/Installation of the 6-inch gate valve, and is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to provide a more reliable water system for the people of the CNMI. The transition work is in part of the decommissioning of the old waterline to eliminate risks of contamination and frequent line breaks.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

\$1.8M San Antonio waterline replacement project awarded

Tropex Garden Co., Ltd. has been awarded a \$1,817,870 contract for the construction of the San Antonio waterline replacement project.

This Commonwealth Utilities Corp. project, which is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, is designed to provide beneficial water services for the customers at the San Antonio village.

The contract was awarded to Tropex Garden in December 2022. Construction activities will commence as soon as necessary permits are issued from multi-government agencies. The project com-

pletion date is scheduled on Dec. 13, 2023.

CUC will be providing constant updates to the public and the residents of the San Antonio village regarding any service interruptions on water distribution during the construction. CUC apologizes in advance for any inconveniences resulting from this project.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

Making a living out of loving the sea

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

People who love being out at sea may now have a chance to make a living out of that passion, with the non-profit group 500 Sails teaming up with Adams' Marine Seminars to enable CNMI residents to obtain what's called OUPV captain's license classes that will allow them to captain a boat with up to six passengers.

Chris Adams of Adams' Marine Seminars started his first class last Monday at the 500 Sails boatyard in Lower Base for his students to get what's called a six-pack captain's license.

500 Sails' Marjorie Daria, director of the organization's Culture of Maritime Training Center, said this license is just a short segment into the opportunities these students can pursue if they want to work on ships, work for the U.S. Coast Guard, or enter into any maritime company.

"In a way, we are trying to find training opportunities that will help people be able to make a living out of what they love doing," Daria said.

OUPV, or Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessel, is not a class commonly held on island, and many from Saipan who need OUPV certification usually have to



CHRYSTAL MARINO

OUPV captain's license class participants Bennijay Gonzales and Dre Lizama pose for *Saipan Tribune* at the 500 Sails classroom in Lower Base, Puerto Rico.

travel off island to get training, Daria said, so the opening of the course under 500 Sails and Adams' Maritime Seminars provides a significant opportunity for residents who are interested in maritime work.

Chris Adams is no stranger to Saipan and has been visiting the island for about 20 years already. "I've been coming for 18 of those 20 years. I have a lot of friends, met up with a lot of great people, very good people, and I enjoy coming to be able to help people to get their license. I've seen the difference that it makes in people. ...People have come

up to me years after they've gotten that license, and they're so happy that they were able to get that license, and they're paying their mortgage, paying their vehicles off. ...It's a good feeling to be able to help some people out," he said.

Adams explained that he had been invited annually to come to the CNMI and provide these seminars, and had been doing so, but the COVID-19 pandemic had stopped those annual trips until recently. "We've been doing classes [on] Saipan every year, usually every spring. When COVID-19 hit, that...shut some

things down for a while. ...500 Sails contacted us sometime last year, and invited us to come work with them, use their facility, and try to draw in some people."

Besides promoting 500 Sails, Adams said the classes are also helping people get a license so they can make a good living for themselves.

When asked if he has plans to return after this course is completed, Adams replied, "I'm planning on coming back. We enjoy it, we enjoy being able to help some people out. As long as there's a need, then I'm willing to help some people out."

One of the class' students, Dre Lizama from Tinian, said he is enjoying the classes. "I'm learning a lot and I'm expecting to hopefully get my license within the next six months and hopefully start work." He also praised Adams for doing a good job in explaining everything thoroughly.

When asked about his goals upon course completion, another student, Bennijay Gonzales, said he wants to further help those interested in fishing. "What I'm expecting is to get my license so when I go back to Tinian, I can start chartering for some people who want to go learn to fish..."



CHRYSTAL MARINO

OUPV captain's license class participants listen as instructor Chris Adams of Adams' Marine Seminars conducts the course's first session in the 500 Sails boatyard in Lower Base, Puerto Rico.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Raising fees for immigration applications is wrongheaded

It's very reasonable that when you're paying thousands of dollars in fees for a service, you expect it to be done well. You certainly don't expect your fees to be dramatically increased to coincide with the service being performed much slower and less efficiently, as has now been proposed for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

In a federal rule published this month, the Homeland Security subagency floated steep increases to fees for employment visas and green cards, raising costs that are already practically unaffordable for many employers and applicants. Visas like O-1, H-1B and L-1, for workers of various types, will all go up, with the latter increasing by more than double to \$1,385 for just an application that may well be denied.

Any employer in any industry heavily dependent on foreign workers will tell you that the system is an expensive and bureaucratic hassle as is, and increasing costs right as we are trying to build out capacity in high-tech sectors like semiconductors is a terrible idea. In an economy with a continuing strong labor demand, what we need is more workers, not fewer.

Not long ago, we celebrated the high number of naturalizations during the prior fiscal year, while noting that this was in spite of the current bureaucracy, not because of it. Now, full applications for adjustment of status to permanent residency, a precursor to citizenship, could go up 130%, from \$1,225 to \$2,820. For a family with a spouse and a couple kids applying, that expense could be insurmountable.

USCIS claims these increases are necessary for it, as a fee-funded agency, to keep up with processing, cut through backlogs, and keep humanitarian applications free, yet maybe it should start by cleaning house. As pointed out by the Cato Institute's David J. Bier, buried in the rule itself is the admission that USCIS is simply taking longer to review most forms than it did in the past, gumming up the works. Find efficiencies first, before foisting more costs on applicants.

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Who says Washington can't keep a secret?

The craft of investigative journalism often feels like a never ending work-in-progress.

And that's the way it was this week, after the news broke on Monday, and was confirmed by the White House, that about 10 classified documents (topics unknown) had been discovered in a Washington think tank office that Joe Biden and his aides used after his vice presidential term ended.

It was way back on Nov. 2—six days before the 2022 election—that Biden's personal attorneys found the documents in a locked closet in Biden's office at the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement. Biden's lawyers reportedly called National Archives officials, who retrieved the documents the next day. Then the Archives called the Justice Department. Thursday, Attorney General Merrick Garland appointed a special counsel, Robert Hur, to look into the whole affair.

No doubt your inner investigative reporter is already asking: Who made the decision to say nothing about this newsworthy discovery in the following 67 days? And why was the secret stuff there anyway?

Maybe those secret documents actually were "inadvertently misplaced," as Biden's attorneys said in a statement this week. But maybe those classified documents were intentionally "misplaced" so opposition researchers or reporters might never see them. It has been known to happen.

Maybe one of the veep's insiders saw something embarrassing and wanted to protect the boss's presidential ambitions? Was there anything that could possibly embarrass the boss? Oh yes—the embarrassment Republicans have long been blaring at us through their cyber-megaphones: Hunter Biden.

Perhaps there was classified intel stashed in the veep's closet about foreign governments discussing how Hunter was getting rich for being a son of a veep. Hunter made more than \$1 million one year by serving on the board of Burisma, a Ukraine energy firm, when Biden was the Obama administration's lead official in dealing with Ukraine.

Sure enough, on Thursday I uncovered all sorts of documentation that would surely embarrass Biden and his team. Well, I uncovered it by taking the blue plastic wrap off my home delivered New York Times. And there they were: Two stories spread all across the top of the front page. But none of it was classified top secret.

At the top right was the headline: "Classified files found at 2nd site linked to Biden." By the end of the day the White House was admitting more classified documents had been found in the garage of Biden's home in Wilmington, Delaware. What Biden's White House didn't mention is they were found last Dec. 20.

By **MARTIN SCHRAM**
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.



Why the delay? Just last September, Biden quite accurately called Donald Trump's efforts to hide and keep classified documents "totally irresponsible." On Thursday he was incoherent as he tried to explain how classified documents ended up in the garage where he keeps his Corvette.

At the top left was the headline: "The Tale of Hunter Biden Comes Front and Center." The Times unveiled a huge investigative report detailing the schemes by which Hunter Biden profited off his dad's prominence in global policymaking. The Times reporting also refutes many Republican exaggerations and distortions that claim Joe Biden profited from his son's profiteering. When all the investigations are done, Hunter Biden may be found guilty of a crime. But what this was most of all was a horribly sad tale of a son of a famous father who had lost loved ones, fallen victim to drug addiction and alcoholism. It was also a tale of a father (whom I've known well) who was caught in a human dilemma when his unstable son repeatedly tried to profit off being a vice president's son. And the father apparently felt that if he insisted his son stop profiteering from his father's Ukraine policymaking role, he might push his son into a tragic relapse. Or worse.

The father's solution—to just never discuss his Ukraine work with his son—was doomed to fail. Burisma was only paying for the appearance of looking like it was highly-connected. Biden's only true solution was to end all appearance that America's envoy was doing favors. Biden needed to confide his dilemma to President Barack Obama. Together they could have transferred Biden's Ukraine duties to someone else. Let Hillary do it.

But that never happened. So today, we are left to recall the old story of how Joe Biden reacted when he first heard that Hunter joined Burisma's board of directors. As Hunter told The New Yorker in 2019: "Dad said, 'I hope you know what you are doing,' and I said, 'I do.'"

We will be watching a political payback re-dramatization of just what Hunter knew and did—and what he got for it—when the House Republicans' showcase their hearings later this year.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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What could bring the Korean Peninsula to the brink of war

Since conservative Yoon Suk Yeol became president of South Korea eight months ago, North Korea has drastically increased military provocations. In an incident last month, at least five North Korean drones freely crossed into South Korea's airspace. One drone infiltrated the northern end of a no-fly zone surrounding the president's office. Many South Koreans fear that the North's heightened aggression is a precursor to a second Korean War.

Putting the Korean fear into perspective leads me to think of what factors may incentivize the North to have a direct military confrontation with the South. There are three factors that could lead to a heightened conflict.

The first is Russia's military success in Ukraine. At the moment, Vladimir Putin appears to be not very successful in the Russia-Ukraine war. However, if Putin can control four regions of Ukraine—Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia—that were annexed by Russia last September, he may claim victory and likely gain popular approval for his mission to rectify perceived injustices and regain lost Russian lands and Russian communities.

Putin's military adventures are, if successful, likely to encourage Kim Jong Un of the North to undertake a military assault against Yoon who has tried to back Kim into a corner since May. Yoon's full-court press is odd given that he has no authority to maneuver his soldiers in case of war. The four-star U.S. general of ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command will maintain war-

time operational control. Nevertheless, Yoon has been pursuing the strategy of an eye for an eye by insisting on preemptive strikes on the North. Kim seems convinced that Yoon is bluffing, so he is willing to raise the bet with more actions including nuclear weapon tests and direct military clashes.

There is a historical precedent of a relationship between the North's military aggression and the South's bluffing. Then-President Kim Il Sung of the North invaded the South after learning that Syngman Rhee, South Korea's founding president, was advocating marching north and capturing Pyongyang for the unification of the Korean peninsula when he had little military capabilities.

That bluffing—and, of course, Kim's political ambitions—cost the lives of nearly 5 million people during the Korean War.

The second factor is China's economic frustration. Since its economic opening in 1978, China has enjoyed a high rate of gross domestic product growth. However, President Xi Jinping faces an economic slowdown due to tepid productivity growth and stiff international competition. Xi is particularly displeased with President Joe Biden, who wants to hobble China's progress in the semiconductor industry. If Xi continues to feel hopeless about getting out of economic trouble and trapped by the Biden initiative to isolate China's chip industry, the chances are that he will search for aggressive ways to open foreign markets.

Nineteenth-century French economist, Frederic Bastiat once prophesied: "When goods do not cross frontiers, armies will." Japan's 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor is consistent with the Bastiat prediction. The U.S. exported most of its gasoline and machine tools before it imposed a series of stringent economic sanctions on imperial Japan. Then-Prime Minister Hideki Tojo decided to confront the U.S. challenges by attacking and occupying U.S. territories.

No one can guarantee that Xi will shy away from taking a militaristic approach when China loses its competitive edge in the global market from rising economic nationalism among major trading partners. Xi may be willing to use force to secure markets for Chinese products. If he initiates war in the Pacific, he is likely to prod his key ally, Kim, to attack South Korea to create a multitheater war.

The U.S. is prepared to simultaneously fight two major conflicts in different parts of the world, but it is likely to run into

By **SEUNG-WHAN CHOI**

Chicago Tribune

JSeung-Whan Choi teaches Korean politics and international relations at the University of Illinois at Chicago. A retired Army officer, he is also the author of four books.



trouble if it has to deal with the Russia-Ukraine war in Europe and potentially ominous conflicts in Asia. Kim is unlikely to miss the opportunity to advance his security interests in the Korean Peninsula.

The third factor is South Korea's security vulnerability. Although the South's military power is superior to the North's, excluding nuclear weapons, its civilian leadership is not yet up to standard. It may be a moot point to debate whether Yoon is a draft dodger or lacks military expertise since he was elected by popular vote. However, it remains questionable whether Yoon makes his security decisions with the aid of experts with a proven record.

In their 20s, Yoon's national security advisers refused to fulfill military duty. They betrayed the public trust by letting North Korean drones spy over Seoul. Amid public uproar, Yoon and his advisers blamed the former president by asserting that Moon Jae-in's inadequate military drills brought about the crisis. Yoon then vowed to install a defense system for capturing North Korean drones. But Yoon did not know that such a system was already created and run by the Moon government up until he became president eight months ago.

It does not matter how advanced the South's military technology is when the civilian leadership appears to neglect to do its homework—such as learning what military technology is available and how South Korea can use it against the enemy. Why are eight months not long enough for Yoon and his advisers to finish their job training on security and defense? How soon can those rookies get their act together?

In the meantime, the South's inept leadership is likely to embolden Kim to escalate South-North conflicts to the highest level.

Cats or rats?

LITERARY NOOK

By **BOB COLDEEN**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Bob Coldeen is a longtime TV journalist in the CNMI and is news director/reporter of KSPN 2.



A feline freeloader laid kittens in our porch closet.
We have three cats now, the number fluctuates.
We give them water from our outdoor faucet
And put food from our kitchen on their plates.

Living deep inside the boonies of Saipan
Means making a decision—cats or rats?
Two foes vie for the same piece of land
And refuse to be friends in these habitats.

Accept the fact the house belongs to the cats.
Feed them, shelter them, and keep them near
Or face never-ending waves of hungry rats
From the front, the sides, and worst, the rear.

A 9th century Chinese poem for Ukraine

I found a Tang Dynasty poem by Zhang Ji (c.776 – c. 829) that seems to reach across 1,200 years to soldier's wives in Ukraine today.

Given the continued bombing of civilian targets in Ukraine by Russia this past holiday season, the war refugees weigh heavy on my mind. Before Thanksgiving 2022, there were more than 1 million Ukrainian women and children refugees in Poland alone. Millions more were spread out in other European countries. Putin said there would be no cessation of bombing during the Christmas holidays and he kept his word. Some on Christmas eve and on Dec. 27, 2022, Russia dropped 33 bombs on a Ukraine city in the Donbas region, including on a maternity hospital. On Jan. 14, 2023, they bombed an apartment building, leaving 60 dead, including one child. Primary targets have been civilian buildings, including power, heat and water plants. Basically, Putin is committing aerial genocide, bombing infrastructure and increasing the number of deaths due to exposure during the dead of winter.

Millions of grandmothers, mothers, sisters, aunties, girls, boys, and infants will never see some of the males in their lives again. This is also true for the Russians, many whom have no desire to be there in the first place. There are also women fighting on the front lines on both sides, so those female soldiers who are killed will never be seen alive by their respective male family members.

The horrors of war continue for those refugees alive after the war ceases. Millions will have no homes to return to, schools and hospitals have been destroyed all over Ukraine.

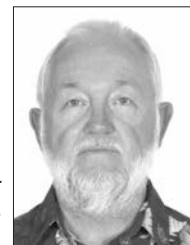
The United States has monuments to the Unknown Soldier and "missing-in-action" flags still fly here in the CNMI. Thank

LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.



you to President Biden for helping Ukraine. The sentiment and reality of this anti-war poem extend across the centuries and around the world today. Here is the poem, "A Soldier's Wife Complains" in its entirety:

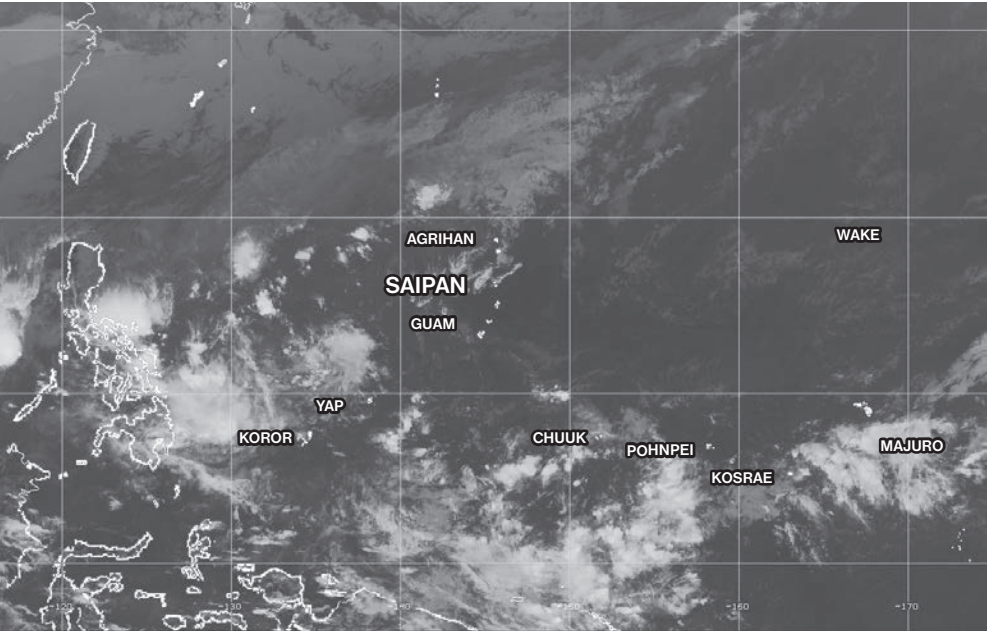
A Soldier's Wife Complains*

In September the barbarians killed the border general
and all our Han soldiers died by the Liao River.
No one can travel three thousand miles to pick up white bones,
so the families tried to summon the lost souls and bury them.
Women depend on their sons and husbands,
happy to live together, even in poverty,
but my husband is dead in a field and my son's in my belly
and though my body remains, my life is a candle in daylight.

**Since they didn't have the bodies, the families buried the dead soldier's clothes and summoned their souls to lie at rest.*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny	
86°	75°	86°	74°	85°	75°	86°	74°	88°	73°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:07 AM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows scattered showers in the Guam Waters and the waters south of Rota, with almost no showers in the Tinian and Saipan Waters. The buoys reveal combined seas of 5 to 7 feet composed mainly of east-northeast swell with some wind waves on top.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85° / 75°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 76°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 75°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 77°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	84° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 78°	
Majuro	Isolated Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:46 AM	6:07 PM
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:08 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:08 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	2:42 AM	2:15 PM	-
Thursday	3:46 AM	3:13 PM	-
Friday	4:53 AM	4:17 PM	-
Saturday	6:00 AM	5:26 PM	-
Sunday	7:02 AM	6:35 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	73° / 63°	
Beijing	Sunny	46° / 27°	
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	68° / 59°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	82° / 70°	
London	Partly Cloudy	39° / 32°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	77° / 50°	
Manila	Rain	88° / 75°	
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 54°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	80° / 65°	
New York	Mostly Cloudy	43° / 36°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	48° / 39°	
Paris	Showers	41° / 28°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	50° / 43°	
Rome	Rain	59° / 46°	
Salem	Showers	41° / 28°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	60° / 45°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	39° / 34°	
Tokyo	Sunny	48° / 34°	
Washington, DC	Cloudy	43° / 33°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
05:50 AM	High Tide	1.42	
10:11 AM	Low Tide	1.12	
3:26 PM	High Tide	1.68	
11:13 PM	Low Tide	-0.47	

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:46AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:30AM	7:25AM	Daily	PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	8:00PM	9:50PM	Daily	UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
				UA189	12:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam	UA189/174	12:40AM	8:46AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	10:55PM	8:46AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
OZ624/701	3:50PM	10:35AM+1	3,6 via Incheon	UA192/174	10:40PM	8:46AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
				OZ704/623	11:50PM	2:20PM+1	2, 5 via Incheon
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	6:55AM	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ623	9:00AM	2:20PM	3, 6
TW9308	3:30AM	7:10AM	2, 4	7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
OZ624	3:50PM	7:40PM	3, 6	TW307	8:45PM	2:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily	TW9307	9:00PM	2:30AM+1	1, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS					
INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022					
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)	7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.		10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)	4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)
SAIPAN TO ROTA			ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.		9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.		2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	
SAIPAN TO GUAM			GUAM TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.		12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.	
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.		6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Business

Kamakazee's is back and better than ever

By LEIGH GASES

leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kamakazee's has finally reopened on Martin Luther King Jr. day, Monday, Jan. 16, after closing for a couple of months due to renovation—with a revamped and even more delicious menu fit for anyone looking for a great dining experience.

Give your taste buds something different to rave about with Kamakazee's famous poke nachos—which is a flavorful combination of wonton chips, tuna poke, spicy crabmeat, edamame, cucumber and carrot slices, bonito flakes, nori, furikake, and mixed with spicy mayo.

Along with the poke nachos are other favorites of their diners since officially opening back in September 2021. You can find on the Favorites section of the menu with the poke nachos are the Kamakazee fried rice, bacon carbonara, fish tacos, flavored fries, binadu (deer) dip, and mozzarella sticks.

The menu doesn't end there as you need not look any further to get your Mediterranean, local, or vegetarian fix than at Kamakazee's location in Beach Road, Garapan, right across the building of Hot Deals and Lollipop's.

For now, their business hours are 11am to 2pm, from Monday to Friday. With a whole lot of burgers, salads, bowls, sandwiches/wraps, and vegetarian options, and also an ever changing lunch special menu, you and your friends will always have something new to try.



LEIGH GASES

Kamakazee's is located right across the building of Hot Deals and Lollipop's in Beach Road, Garapan.



LEIGH GASES

Reeka Cruz, owner of Kamakazee, and her husband, Michael Guerrero, pose in front of a painting of a bird of paradise flower, which is also the letter K's in their logo of their restaurant, Kamakazee's.

Their burger menu includes the smash burger with double smashed patties, bacon cheeseburger, chipotle burger, Kamakazee burger, portobello burger, and the inferno burger.

Their hearty and delicious bowls include poke bowl, Mongolian beef bowl, fajita bowl, shawarma bowl, and spam musubi bowl.

Reeka Cruz, who was lovingly called "Ka" by her family and friends growing up, chose the name of her restaurant due to her spontaneous and bold ways during her formative years and just found the name Kamakazee, (in reference to the word kamikaze) to be fitting.

Growing up in a big Fili-



LEIGH GASES/DONNA RIVERA

Beef shawarma rice bowl with onions and tomatoes, pickles, Tzatziki sauce, and naan bread.

pino-Chamorro household of 12 siblings on Tinian, Cruz loved cooking big meals for her family.

Now, the 32-year-old continues her passion for cooking and has made it her life's work to get her food from her kitchen and into people's stomachs.

Wife to Michael Guerrero and mother of three of her own—with one on the way—and to three adopted children, along with being a business owner, and a part-time cake decorator at Herman's Bakery, Cruz was asked how she handles everything, and she said, "I do this because I want to share my livelihood, my interests, my talents, and my passion with everyone else. That's the main reason why I opened Kamakazee's because it's what I love doing. What I love doing makes people hap-

py, so it makes me happy."

With her family surrounded by food and cooking, she said her children are following their footsteps. Her 13-year-old son sometimes cooks for their family and with that, she said "I'm really looking forward to my kids growing up. They are going to be involved and they're going to be surrounded by food. They're going to be surrounded by business and that they're going to want to grow up and be a part of it."

"That's why it's not really work—we're making it into a family thing," she said about her daily life as a mother, wife, business owner, and chef.

Cruz invites everyone to try out their new menu and to "come on down, support local, try out what we have to offer with our new menu of

delicious, unique dishes, and comfort food that you would surely enjoy and come back for more."

Kamakazee's is also one of the businesses who received a grant from the Building Optimism, Opportunities, and Stability Together, or BOOST program, which Cruz used for renovation, salaries, rent, and paying off any outstanding debt.

She said she is grateful for the grant which she put to use for Kamakazee's, noting that she has "managed to take care of so much stuff, so I'm glad."

For reservations, order take out, or inquire about their catering services, call Kamakazee's at (670) 488-5000 or direct message and follow their social media pages on Facebook at Kamakazee's and Instagram @kamakazee_670

Economic woes, war, and climate change on tap for Davos meeting

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP)—The World Economic Forum is back with its first winter meet-up since 2020 in the Swiss Alpine town of Davos, where leaders are seeking to bridge political divisions in a polarized world, buttress a hobbling economy and address concerns about a climate change — among many other things.

Sessions will take up issues as diverse as the future of fertilizers, the role of sports in society, the state of the COVID-19 pandemic and much more. Nearly 600 CEOs and more than 50 heads of state or government are expected, but it's never clear how much concrete action emerges from the elite event.

Here's what to watch as the four-day talkfest and related deal-making get underway in

earnest Tuesday:

WHO'S COMING?

Back in the snows for the first time since the pandemic and just eight months after a springtime 2022 session, the event will host notables like European Union Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, U.S. climate envoy John Kerry, and the new presidents of South Korea, Colombia and the Philippines.

Chinese Vice Premier Liu He addresses the gathering Tuesday, a day before his first meeting with his U.S. counterpart, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, in Zurich. Yellen will skip Davos.

Who else is missing? U.S. President Joe Biden, Chinese President Xi Jinping, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak,

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, of course: Envoys from his country has been shunned because of his war in Ukraine.

Ukrainian first lady Olena Zelenska was on her way to Davos and will speak Tuesday, while her husband, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, will give a remote address Wednesday and other officials from Ukraine are appearing on panels.

Outside the main convention center, a themed venue known as Ukraine House is hosting a concert, photo exhibits, seminars, cocktail events and other meetings this week to drum up support for Ukraine's efforts to drive out Russian forces.

China's economic growth falls to 3%, gradually reviving

BEIJING (AP)—China's economic growth fell to its second-lowest level in at least four decades last year under pressure from anti-virus controls and a real estate slump, but activity is reviving after restrictions that kept millions of people at home and sparked protests were lifted.

The world's No. 2 economy grew by 3% in 2022, less than half of the previous year's 8.1% rate, official data showed Tuesday. That was the second-lowest annual rate since at least the 1970s after 2020, when growth fell to 2.4% at the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

China's slump has hurt its trading partners by reducing demand for oil, food, consumer goods and other imports. A rebound would be a boost to

global suppliers who face a growing risk of recession in Western economies.

Economic growth sank to 2.9% over a year earlier in the three months ending in December from the previous quarter's 3.9%, the National Bureau of Statistics reported.

Consumer spending started to recover but still was weak in December after the ruling Communist Party abruptly ended its "zero-COVID" controls.

China's economic growth is in long-term decline after hitting a peak of 14.2% in 2007, hampered by hurdles including an aging, shrinking workforce and growing curbs on Chinese access to Western technology due to security concerns.

China's population of work-

ing age people 16 to 59 has fallen by about 5% from its 2011 peak to 876.6 million last year, based on official data released Tuesday. The working-age group as a share of the population of 1.4 billion fell to 62% from 70% a decade ago.

The International Monetary Fund and private sector forecasters expect economic growth no higher than about 4% through the rest of the decade.

In December, retail sales fell 1.8% from a year earlier, but that was an improvement over the previous month's 5.9% contraction. Wary consumers are returning only gradually to shopping malls and restaurants amid a surge in COVID-19 infections that has flooded hospitals with patients.

Nation

More rain, snow in California from ninth in series of storms

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The ninth atmospheric river in a three-week series of major winter storms was churning through California on Monday, leaving mountain driving dangerous and the flooding risk high near swollen rivers even as the sun came out in some areas.

Heavy snow fell across the Sierra Nevada and the National Weather Service discouraged travel. Interstate 80, a key highway from the San Francisco Bay Area to Lake Tahoe ski resorts, reopened with chain requirements after periodic weekend closures because of whiteout conditions.

“If you must travel, be prepared for dangerous travel conditions, significant travel delays and road closures,” the weather service office in Sacramento said on Twitter.

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden will travel to California’s central coast Thursday to visit areas that have been devastated by extreme weather.

The White House said in a statement Monday that the president would visit with first responders and state and local officials, survey recovery efforts and assess what additional federal sup-

port is needed.

The president’s trip was announced as the ninth atmospheric river in a three-week series of major winter storms was churning through California.

The storms have dumped rain and snow on California since late December, cutting power to thousands, swamping roads, toppling trees, unleashing debris flows and triggering landslides. Monday’s system was relatively weak compared with earlier storms, but flooding and mudslide risks remained because the state was so saturated, forecasters said.

The University of California Berkeley Central Sierra Snow Lab tweeted Monday morning that it had recorded 49.6 inches (126 cm) of new snow since Friday.

A backcountry avalanche warning was issued for the central Sierra, including the greater Tahoe area.

A barrage of atmospheric river storms has dumped rain and snow on California since late December, cutting power to thousands, swamping roads, toppling trees, unleashing debris flows and triggering landslides. Monday’s system was relatively weak compared



Ryan Orosco, of Brentwood, carries his wife Amanda Orosco, from their flooded home on Bixler Road in Brentwood, Calif., on Monday, Jan. 16, 2023.

with earlier storms, but flooding and mudslide risks remained because the state was so saturated, forecasters said.

President Joe Biden will travel to California’s central coast Thursday to visit areas that have been impacted by the extreme weather. The White House said in a statement

Monday that the president would visit with first responders and state and local officials, survey recovery efforts and assess what additional federal support is needed.

Mostly dry days were in the week’s forecast, though some parts of Northern California

could see more rain at midweek.

The sun came out Monday in San Francisco, where 20.3 inches (51.5 cm) of rain has fallen at the city’s airport since Oct. 1, when California typically begins recording rainfall for the year. The average for the “water year” is 19.6

inches (49.8 cm), “so we’ve surpassed the yearly total with 8 more months to go,” the San Francisco weather service office tweeted.

Across the bay in Berkeley, 10 homes were evacuated Monday when a sodden hillside collapsed, sending mud onto properties. No injuries were reported.

Up to 2 more inches (5 cm) of rain fell Sunday in the soaked Sacramento Valley, where residents of Wilton and surrounding communities were warned to prepare to leave if the Cosumnes River rose further.

In Monterey County, the swollen Salinas River swamped farmland over the weekend and officials said Monday that it was still rising. To the east, flood warnings were still in effect for Merced County in the agricultural Central Valley, where Gov. Gavin Newsom visited Saturday.

Newsom on Monday signed an executive order to further bolster the state’s emergency storm response and help communities that suffered damage. President Joe Biden declared a major disaster in the state and ordered federal aid to supplement local recovery efforts.

On King’s holiday, daughter calls for bold action over words

ATLANTA (AP)—America has honored Martin Luther King Jr. with a federal holiday for nearly four decades yet still hasn’t fully embraced and acted on the lessons from the slain civil rights leader, his youngest daughter said Monday.

The Rev. Bernice King, who leads The King Center in Atlanta, said leaders—especially politicians—too often cheapen her father’s legacy into a “comfortable and convenient King” offering easy platitudes.

“We love to quote King in and around the holiday. ... But then we refuse to live King 365 days of the year,” she declared at the commemorative service at Ebenezer Baptist Church, where her father once preached.

The service, organized by the center and held at Ebenezer annually, headlined observances of the 38th federal King holiday. King, gunned down in Memphis in 1968 as he advocated for better pay and working conditions for the city’s sanitation workers, would have celebrated his 94th birthday Sunday.

Her voice rising and falling in cadences similar to her father’s, Bernice King bemoaned institutional and

individual racism, economic and health care inequities, police violence, a militarized international order, hardline immigration structures and the climate crisis. She said she’s “exhausted, exasperated and, frankly, disappointed” to hear her father’s words about justice quoted so extensively alongside “so little progress” addressing society’s gravest problems.

“He was God’s prophet sent to this nation and even the world to guide us and forewarn us. ... A prophetic word calls for an inconvenience because it challenges us to change our hearts, our minds and our behavior,” Bernice King said. “Dr. King, the inconvenient King, puts some demands on us to change our ways.”

President Joe Biden addressed an MLK breakfast hosted in Washington by the Rev. Al Sharpton’s National Action Network. Sharpton got his start as a civil rights organizer in his teens as youth director of an anti-poverty project of King’s Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

“This is a time for choosing,” Biden said, repeating themes from a speech he delivered Sunday at Ebenezer at

the invitation of Sen. Raphael Warnock, the senior pastor at Ebenezer who recently won reelection to a full term as Georgia’s first Black U.S. senator.

“Will we choose democracy over autocracy, or community over chaos? Love over hate?” Biden asked Monday. “These are the questions of our time that I ran for president to try to help answer. ... Dr. King’s life and legacy—in my view—shows the way forward.”

Elsewhere in Washington, Martin Luther King III attended a wreath-laying ceremony at the national memorial to his father. And Vice President Kamala Harris, the first woman and person of color to hold the office, spoke to volunteers at a day of service project at George Washington University.

Thousands attended a memorial march in San Antonio. In Los Angeles, the Kingdom Day Parade returned after a two-year pandemic break.

Other commemorations echoed Bernice King’s reminder and Biden’s allusions that the “Beloved Community”—Martin Luther King’s descriptor for a world in which all people are free from fear, discrimination, hunger and violence—remains elusive.

ACROSS THE NATION

Baby, teen mom among 6 killed in shooting at California home

VISALIA, Calif. (AP)—Six people—including a 17-year-old mother and her 6-month-old baby—were killed in a shooting early Monday at a home in central California, and authorities are searching for at least two suspects, sheriff’s officials said.

Deputies responded around 3:30 a.m. to reports of multiple shots fired at the residence in unincorporated Goshen, just east of Visalia, the Tulare County Sheriff’s Office said.

“Actually the report was that an active shooter was in the area because of the number of shots that were being fired,” Sheriff Mike Boudreaux told reporters.

Deputies found two victims dead in the street and a third person fatally shot in the doorway of the residence, Boudreaux said.

Three more victims were found inside the home, including a man who was still alive but later died at a hospital, he said.

The sheriff said investigators are searching for at least two suspects. They believe there is a gang connection

to the killings. The sheriff’s office conducted a narcotics-related search warrant at the residence last week, Boudreaux said.

Boy, 11, fatally shot in Dallas by teen arguing with another

DALLAS (AP)—A 14-year-old girl fatally shot an 11-year-old boy at a Dallas apartment complex parking lot after retrieving a gun during an argument with another child, police said.

Police said that the 14-year-old shot in the direction of the girl she was fighting with, but the shot ended up striking the 11-year-old bystander on Sunday afternoon.

“Everyone involved are juveniles and this is just a horrible incident,” police Sgt. Warren Mitchell said.

The 11-year-old was taken to a hospital, where he died.

Police say the 14-year-old ran from the scene of the shooting and was later taken into custody at a nearby apartment complex. Police said the 14-year-old is being held at a juvenile justice center and is expected to be charged with murder.

The weapon was recovered, according to police,

who continue to investigate.

Indiana man arrested after young boy seen playing with gun

BEECH GROVE, Ind. (AP)—An Indiana man faces criminal charges after a young boy was allegedly seen holding a handgun outside their apartment and pulling the trigger without firing any bullets.

Indianapolis TV station WXIN, citing a police report by the Beech Grove Police Department, said a 45-year-old man was arrested Saturday for felony neglect of a dependent. Live footage of the arrest was filmed by and broadcast on the reality TV show called “On Patrol: Live,” which follows law enforcement officers on duty, the department confirmed.

It was not immediately clear what led police to the apartment, but a video of a young boy playing with the gun was recorded by a security camera and seized by police in their investigation, the station reported. The boy, who was not named, can be seen waving the gun and pulling its trigger. He did not appear to be harmed.

Asia

Flight data and voice recorders retrieved from Nepal crash site

POKHARA, Nepal (AP)—Search teams retrieved the flight data and cockpit voice recorders Monday of a passenger plane that plummeted into a gorge on approach to a new airport in the foothills of the Himalayas, officials said, as investigators looked for the cause of Nepal's deadliest plane crash in 30 years.

At least 69 of the 72 people aboard were killed, and officials believe the three missing are also dead. Rescuers combed through the debris, scattered down a 300-meter-deep (984-foot-deep) gorge, for them.

Many of the passengers on Sunday's flight were returning home to Pokhara, though the city is also popular with tourists since it's the gateway to the Annapurna Circuit hiking trail. On Monday evening, relatives and friends were still gathered outside a local hospital, some shouting at officials to speed up the post mortems so they could hold funerals for their loved ones. Later, some did receive the bodies of relatives.

It's still not clear what caused the crash, which took place less than a minute's flight from the airport on a mild day with little wind.

In footage taken by a passenger out of a window as the plane came in for a landing, buildings, roads and greenery are visible below. The video, by Sonu Jaiswal and verified by The Associated Press, then shows a violent jolt and a series of jerky images accompanied by yelling before flames fill the screen.

Yellen to meet with Chinese finance minister in Switzerland

WASHINGTON (AP)—Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen will meet with her Chinese counterpart, Vice Premier Liu He, in Switzerland on Wednesday to discuss economic developments between the two nations.

The Zurich talks will be a follow-up to the November meeting between President Joe Biden and China's Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Group of 20 summit in Bali, Indonesia. The two world leaders agreed to empower key senior officials to maintain communication.

Strains between the world's two leading economies have been growing despite their trade ties. The Biden administration has blocked the sale of advanced computer chips to China and is considering a ban on investment in some Chi-

nese tech companies, possibly undermining a key economic goal that Xi set for his country. Statements by the Democratic president that the U.S. will defend Taiwan against a Chinese invasion have increased tensions.

The meeting comes ahead of Yellen's travel to Senegal, Zambia and South Africa this week in what will be the first in a string of visits by Biden administration officials to sub-Saharan Africa during the year.

Africa is crucial to the global economy due to its rapidly growing population and significant natural resources. China's deepening economic entrenchment in African nations, surpassing the U.S. in trade with the continent to become one of the world's largest creditors, is also a motiva-

tion for the U.S. to deepen ties with African nations.

Yellen has spoken at length publicly about China's financing practices on the continent, calling them "economic practices that have disadvantaged all of us."

She has also called on China explicitly to end its relationship with Russia as the Kremlin continues its invasion of Ukraine. The U.S. and its European and Asian allies have imposed sanctions and an oil price cap on Russia in retaliation for the war, putting China in a difficult spot as it had promised a "no limits" friendship with Russia before the invasion began.

It will be Yellen's first in-person meeting with Liu since taking office and follows three virtual meetings between them.

the flight data and the cockpit voice recorders were found. Nepal is home to eight of the world's 14 highest mountains including Mount Everest. A pilot who routinely flies an ATR 72-500 plane from India to Nepal said the region's topography, with its mountain peaks and narrow valleys, raises the risk of accidents and sometimes requires pilots to fly by sight rather than relying on instruments.

The pilot, who works for a private Indian airline and insisted on anonymity due to company policy, called the ATR 72-500 an "unforgiving aircraft" if the pilot isn't highly skilled and familiar with the region's terrain and wind speeds. Hundreds of people have gathered outside the Pokhara Academy of Health and Science, Western Hospital, where the bodies are being kept. Bimala Bhenderi said was planning to meet her friend, Tribhuban Paudel, on Tuesday when she heard that his flight had crashed. "I'm so sad, I can't believe it still," she said in tears. Bikash Jaiswal said he could only identify his wife's brother only by the ring he wore, and that he had yet to tell his wife, who just gave birth to their daughter. Sanjay Jaiswal, who worked as a marketing agent for a private pharmaceutical company in Kathmandu, was flying to Pokhara for the birth. More than 24 hours after the crash, his body lay in the same hospital where his niece was born.

World

RUSSIA SEEN PREPARING LONG WAR Ukraine strike deaths hit 40



Rescue workers carry the body of a man who was killed in a Russian missile strike on an apartment building in the southeastern city of Dnipro, Ukraine, Monday, Jan. 16, 2023. AP

DNIPRO, Ukraine (AP)—Ukrainian emergency crews on Monday sifted through what was left of a Dnipro apartment building destroyed by a Russian missile, placing bodies from one of the war's deadliest single attacks in months in black bags and gingerly carrying them across steep piles of rubble. Authorities said the death toll from Saturday's strike rose to 40 and that 30 people remained missing Monday. Tall cranes swung across the jagged gaps in a row of residential towers, the engines growling as residents of one of Ukraine's largest cities watched largely in silence under a gray sky.

About 1,700 people lived in the multistory building, and search and rescue crews have worked nonstop since the missile strike to locate victims and survivors in the wreckage. The regional administration said 39 people have been rescued and at least 75 were wounded. The reported death toll put it among the deadliest attacks on Ukrainian civilians since before the summer, according to The Associated Press-Frontline War Crimes Watch project. Residents said the apartment tower did not house any military facilities. Oleksander Anyskevych said he was in his apartment when the missile struck. "Boom — and that's it. We saw that we were alive and

that's all," Anyskevych said Monday as he went to the site to see his wrecked apartment. He told The Associated Press that he knew people who died under the rubble. One of his son's classmates lost her parents. Dnipro residents took flowers, candles and toys to the ruins. "All of us could be in that place," local resident Iryna Skrypnyk said. The European Union's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, called the strike, and others like it, "inhuman aggression" because it directly targeted civilians. "There will be no impunity for these crimes," he said in a tweet Sunday.

after those bombings while still a young man — but he was still considered one of Cosa Nostra's top bosses even as a fugitive. Hundreds of police officers were tasked over the years with tracking him, the last of three long-time top-level Mafia bosses who managed to elude capture for decades.

Yemen rebels, Saudis in back-channel talks to maintain truce

CAIRO (AP)—Amid Yemen's longest-ever pause in fighting—more than nine months—Saudi Arabia and its rival, the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels, have revived back-channel talks, hoping to strengthen the informal cease-fire and lay out a path for a negotiated end to the long civil war, according to Yemeni, Saudi and U.N. officials.

The quiet is fragile, with no formal cease-fire in

place since a U.N.-brokered truce ended in October. It has been shaken by Houthi attacks on oil facilities and fiery rhetoric from Yemen's internationally recognized government, allied with Saudi Arabia, which complains it has so far been left out of the talks. Lack of progress could lead to a breakdown and a renewal of all-out fighting. But all sides appear to be looking for a solution after eight years of a war that has killed more than 150,000 people, fragmented Yemen and driven the Arab world's poorest country into collapse and near starvation in one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. Saudi Arabia restarted indirect exchanges with the Houthis in September, when it became clear the U.N.-brokered truce wouldn't be renewed. Oman has been acting as intermediary.

WORLD BRIEFS

Italy's most-wanted Mafia boss nabbed after 30 years on run

ROME (AP)—Italy's No. 1 fugitive, a Mafia boss convicted of helping to mastermind some of the nation's most heinous slayings, was arrested Monday when he sought treatment at a private clinic in Sicily after three decades on the run.

Matteo Messina Denaro was tried in absentia and convicted of dozens of murders, including helping to mastermind, along with other Cosa Nostra bosses, a pair of 1992 bombings that killed top anti-Mafia prosecutors — and led the Italian state to stiffen its crackdown on the Sicilian crime syndicate. He faces multiple life sentences that he is expected to serve in a maximum security prison and under the particularly restrictive conditions reserved for top organized crime bosses. He went into hiding a year

Good Housekeeping

By CATHY HOBBS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Modern, sleek decor isn't for everyone. For many, a touch of formality or other traditional elements is the ultimate in luxury. Creating a traditional feel doesn't have to overwhelm a space or feel outdated. Touches of tradition can be elegant and elevate a space to feel timeless rather than trendy.

Where do you start? And where do you save vs. splurge? Here are some top tips.

DO'S

1. Do blend old with new. Try pairing antiques with more modern elements.
2. Do source locally. Your local antique shop, flea market or estate sale can be a wonderful source for traditional furniture and other decor.
3. Do incorporate heirloom pieces or others that have personal or sentimental meaning.
4. Do consider adding one-of-a-kind elements such as original murals or artwork.
5. Do use furniture elements with traditional details such as nailheads and tufted upholstery.



Hand-painted original art creates a traditional and formal feel in this dining space.

HANDOUT/TNS



An antique console is paired with more modern pieces for a blend of old and new.

HANDOUT/TNS

TRADITIONAL TOUCHES

HANDOUT/TNS
Marble flooring adds a traditional touch to a formal entryway.



HANDOUT/TNS
Wallpaper paired with wall-to-wall carpeting creates a traditional yet elegant feel in this master bedroom.

By PAUL F. P. POGUE
ASK ANGI

ASK ANGI: Do I need to survey my land?

Ask most people where their property begins and ends, and they can give you a specific answer. The road to the west, the alley in the back, the front sidewalk, and the fence between their house and the neighbor's place. It couldn't be simpler, right?

And yet, many homeowners don't really know the exact amount of land they own or where it begins and ends. And not knowing the precise dimensions of your most valuable asset can lead to various problems, ranging from "hilarious misunderstanding" to "complete disaster during home selling."

Homeowners often rely on anecdotal evidence, such as their real estate agent, or the visual markers that border a property (streets, fences) to delineate their property. But even geographic information system information or Google Earth aren't reliable indicators. Indeed, some of what you think is part of your front lawn might be owned by the state or city, depending on how far the legal right of way extends from the street.

The most obvious value of property lines is knowing how far you can and should place improvements along your

yard. A 6-foot variance in your borders makes a big difference when putting up a fence.

Sometimes, a homeowners association will require that specific improvements be made to the property line.

The only reliable way to pinpoint your exact property lines is a professional surveyor, who surveys your property according to the exact dimensions recorded by the city or county office responsible for tracking property lines.

How to hire a surveyor
Licensing requirements vary by state. However, all states

have a surveyor's licensing board. The profession requires a deep knowledge of law and systems, extensive education and professional experience under a licensed surveyor before granting a license.

The profession also requires a bit of diplomacy — surveyors are sometimes called upon to explain their findings to angry landowners who discover they own much less than they thought or that their expensive landscaping extends several feet into someone else's yard.

A survey costs about \$525, but if you've never had one

done, it could prove vital. You should always hire a surveyor when buying a new home. And if you're undertaking landscaping or fence construction, it buys valuable peace of mind to know your boundaries.

Property lines vital to insurance and responsibility
Property lines get even more complicated when you consider elements that start on one property but impact another. Trees make up the majority of these problems. If your oak's limbs extend over

your neighbor's yard, whose problem is it when the leaves fall? Or worse still, if a broken limb causes damage to a neighbor's yard?

This is another case where your jurisdiction matters, so make sure you and your insurance company understand the specifics.

In the end, mutual respect for each other makes the most valuable difference. Consider your neighbors when making improvements near your property edge, regardless of where your property line is.

Tweet your home care questions with #AskingAngi and we'll try to answer them in a future column.

Life & Style

Embattled actor Kevin Spacey lauded in Italy for achievement

TURIN, Italy (AP)—Making his first speaking appearance since #MeToo-era allegations derailed his career, actor Kevin Spacey used a colorful Italian term to thank the National Cine-

ma Museum in the northern city of Turin Monday for having the courage to invite him.

Spacey received a lifetime achievement award from the museum, discussed key roles

during a master class and then introduced the 1999 film “American Beauty,” for which he won his second acting Oscar, to a sold-out crowd.

“I am truly blessed and grate-

ful and humbled. And my heart is very full tonight toward the National Museum of Cinema for having had the “le palle” to invite me tonight,” Spacey said, using the Italian word for

a male body part synonymous with courage, to cheers from the master class audience.

“By presenting this award, they are making a strong defense of artistic achievement and for that they should be applauded,” Spacey said.

Previous winners of the Stella della Mole Award include actors Isabella Rossellini and Monica Bellucci, and director Dario Argento.

The sold-out events were billed as Spacey’s first speaking engagements in five years. After multiple allegations of sexual assault surfaced, the actor lost his starring role on the Netflix series “House of Cards” and saw other opportunities dry up.

Spacey did not directly address the allegations while accepting the award or during the hourlong class. But while noting the loyalty of many fans, he said “the bond I share with

them will not be easily broken by unrestrained, ever-shifting mobocratic ties.”

He choked up as he thanked his manager Evan Lowenstein for his support, calling him “the brother I never had.”

Spacey said he was also “enormously grateful” to Italian director Frank Nero, who hired him for a role in “The Man Who Drew God,” which was filmed in Turin. Spacey will be on hand when the film will be previewed later this week in Rome.

After the master class, fans lined up to take selfies and get DVDs signed.

“I actually missed him, and I think he had a great role in the cinema. He made Netflix what it is today,” said Chiara Ottolini, referring to the enormous success of “House of Cards.” “I am so happy to see that he is coming back, because we have to separate the man and the artist.”

Italian film legend Gina Lollobrigida dies at age 95

ROME (AP)—Italian film legend Gina Lollobrigida, who achieved international stardom during the 1950s and was dubbed “the most beautiful woman in the world” after the title of one of her movies, died in Rome on Monday, her agent said. She was 95.

The agent, Paola Comin, didn’t provide details. Lollobrigida had surgery in September to repair a thigh bone broken in a fall. She returned home and said she had quickly resumed walking.

A drawn portrait of the diva graced a 1954 cover of Time magazine, which likened her to a “goddess” in an article about Italian movie-making. More than a half-century later, Lollobrigida still turned heads with her brown, curly hair and statuesque figure, and preferred to be called an actress instead of the gender-neutral term actor.



A photo taken in the 50s of Italian actress Gina Lollobrigida.

“Lollo,” as she was lovingly nicknamed by Italians, began making movies in Italy just after the end of World War II, as the country began to promote

on the big screen a stereotypical concept of Mediterranean beauty as buxom and brunette.

Besides “The World’s Most Beautiful Woman” in 1955,

career highlights included Golden Globe-winner “Come September,” with Rock Hudson; “Trapeze;” “Beat the Devil,” a 1953 John Huston film starring Humphrey Bogart and Jennifer Jones; and “Buona Sera, Mrs. Campbell,” which won Lollobrigida Italy’s top movie award, a David di Donatello, as best actress in 1969.

In Italy, she worked with some of the country’s top directors following the war, including Mario Monicelli, Luigi Comencini, Pietro Germi and Vittorio De Sica.

Two of her more popular films at home were Comencini’s “Pane Amore e Fantasia” (“Bread, Love and Dreams”) in 1953, and the sequel a year later, “Pane Amore e Gelosia” (“Bread, Love and Jealousy”). Her male foil was Vittorio Gassman, one of Italy’s leading men on the screen.

Memorial for Lisa Marie Presley to be held at Graceland

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—A public memorial service for Lisa Marie Presley will be held next weekend at Graceland, the famed Memphis home of her father, Elvis Presley.

The memorial for Lisa Marie Presley will be held on the front lawn of the mansion at 9 a.m. on Jan. 22, according to a representative of her daughter and actor Riley Keough.

Presley, 54, died Thursday, hours after being hospital-

ized for a medical emergency.

It was previously announced that Presley will be buried at Graceland next to her son, Benjamin Keough, who died in 2020. Elvis and other members of the Presley family are also buried at Graceland.



Presley

A singer-songwriter herself, Lisa Marie did not live in Memphis, where she was born. But she made trips to the city for celebrations of her father’s birth anniversary and commemorations of his death, which stunned the world when he was found dead in Graceland at

age 42 on Aug. 16, 1977.

Lisa Marie became the sole heir of the Elvis Presley Trust, which—along with Elvis Presley Enterprises—managed Graceland and other assets until she sold her majority interest in 2005. She retained ownership of the mansion itself, the 13 acres around it and items inside the home.

She is survived by her mother, Priscilla Presley, and three children.

Boyfriend turns to booze, drugs after baby’s birth

DEAR ABBY: I’m having a big problem with my boyfriend. We had a baby five months ago, and since then he has changed drastically. He previously had a problem with addiction, but had a handle on it. He told me the baby was powerful motivation. My pregnancy was blissful, and he was attentive and caring.

I know babies are stressful, and ours had colic, so we had many nights filled with screaming. I do most of the work with the baby. I quit my job to be a stay-at-home mom and nurse him. The only time my boyfriend takes care of the baby is for me to take a shower. He has been drinking every night and now he’s doing marijuana as well. He is pretty funny when he’s high, but I don’t trust him to take care of our son when he’s that way. He is also addicted to his phone.

When I try to tell him how I feel, he gets defensive. He accuses me of “trying to start problems.” He also lies about his addictions. I only recently found out about some of his lies, and now I’m having a hard time believing anything he says. This is not how I wanted my life to be. This is not what I wanted for our baby. I’m trying to decide whether it’s better to put up with it or leave. I’d have to get a job and find child care. The thought of my son in daycare makes me sick, but so does being treated this way. Please advise me.

TROUBLED NEW MOM

DEAR MOM: Face it. Your boyfriend has backslid, and you can no longer trust him to be truthful with you. Your problems will never be resolved if they can’t be discussed without contention. Start looking for reliable daycare for the baby and for a job. If you do, you will have a head start on the inevitable. If you and this man separate, he will be legally responsible for contributing to his son’s support. It may also be the “jolt” he needs to get straight again.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I’m a queer woman who has a crush on a girl. “Gwen” is kind, outgoing and very intelligent. The poetry she writes is brilliant and sometimes soul-crushing. We are close friends and bonded over our writing. My wife and I have talked openly about my feelings for this girl, and my wife understands why I like her.

The problem is, Gwen is heterosexual. She has said, partly in jest, that it’s “oppressive” that she’s straight. Without going into too much detail, she has had a bad time with past relationships and is presently single.

I am bound and determined to nip this crush in the bud. I feel telling Gwen about it would be unethical. I know for certain that she’s straight, but my brain refuses to shake this “feeling.” I’m terrified that it will ruin our friendship. What do I do?

CRUSHING IN INDIANA

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR CRUSHING: Do the same thing that other mature married people do. Step back from something that could threaten not only your relationship with Gwen but also your marriage. Whether Gwen finds her heterosexuality to be “oppressive” (said in jest) or is bi-curious should not affect your creative relationship with her. If you feel you cannot control your emotions, take a step back and see her less often, if at all.

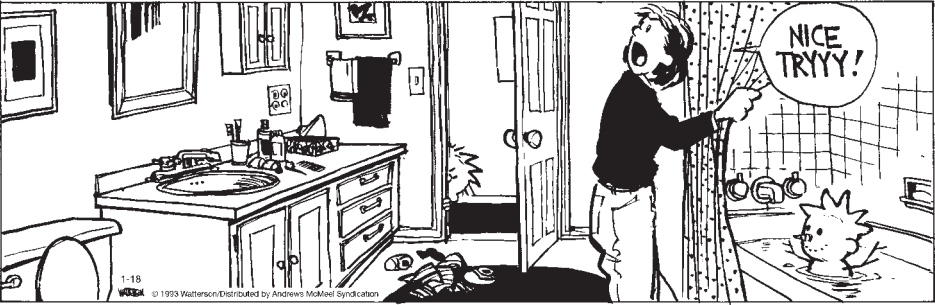
■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



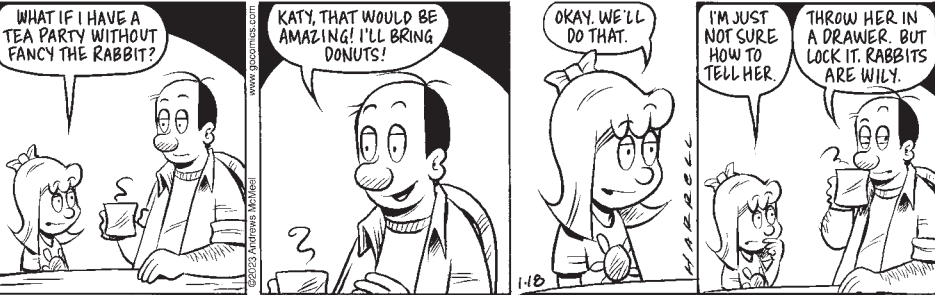
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



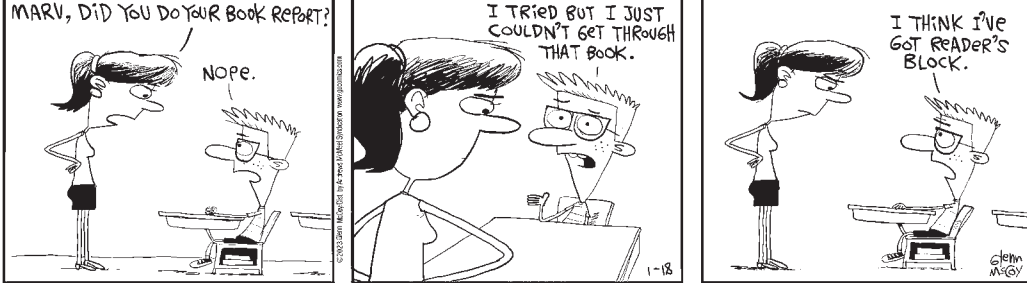
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 \$ dis-pensers

5 Cleric's garment

8 Bakery fixture

12 Sister of Rachel

13 Actor Stephen

14 Painter Chagall

15 Window treat-ments

17 Lamb alias

18 Tennis great Gibson

19 Singer Gomez

21 Blue

22 "How — Your Mother"

23 Driver's lic. issuer

26 Grazing land

28 City near Syracuse

31 Ark builder

33 Lawn material

35 Elitist

DOWN

1 Edison's middle name

2 Blue shade

3 Beer ingredi-ent

4 Persian bigwigs

5 Pinball parlors

6 Golfer Trevino

7 Low voices

8 Breakfast orders

9 Parking cars

10 Hibernia

11 Final Four org.

16 "Hud" Oscar winner

20 Big bird of Australia

23 Genetic stuff

24 Actress Gretchen

25 Heroic

27 "You've got mail" co.

29 URL ending

30 Six-pack muscles

32 Natural home

34 Idles

37 Stashed

39 Boyfriend

42 Cut off

44 Brainy

45 High-five sound

46 Clothing, informally

48 Peek suffix

49 Pleased

50 Architect Saarinen

53 St. crosser

Solution time: 23 mins.

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A	A	R	E		A	R	T		U	R
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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jason Segel, 43; Jesse L. Martin, 54; Mark Messier, 62; Kevin Costner, 68.

Happy Birthday: Spread some joy, and use your intelligence to bring about positive changes at home. Challenge yourself physically, and you'll reach a healthy lifestyle that encourages you to look, feel and do your best. Let the past be your experience that guides you to a better future. Focus on moderation, innovation and practicality. Make your dreams come true. Your numbers are 5, 13, 19, 28, 31, 37, 40.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Express your true feelings. It's essential to clear up unsettled matters if you intend to move forward. Be willing to walk away from situations that are taking you in the wrong direction. Take responsibility for your happiness, and you'll find peace of mind. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put your wisdom and talent to the test. Speak up, indulge in debates that offer food for thought and promote new beginnings, but don't jeopardize your physical well-being. Steer clear of unsafe situations and people who are poor influences. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Dig in, demonstrate what you have to offer and market your skills to fit what's trending in your community. Take a hands-on approach to getting ahead by doing the work and taking the credit you deserve. Leave nothing to chance. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't take anything for granted. Do your part to secure your position and to keep your plans updated and ready to launch. Stick to the script and question anything that suggests inflation. Up-

date information or documents that are outdated. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Choose to enhance your wisdom by experiencing what's popular. Feeling content will be the result of spending time with someone you love. Your pursuit of happiness will impress and encourage loved ones to follow suit. Romance is in the stars. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Stop short of a catastrophe by focusing on enlightenment, personal improvements and maintaining a healthy attitude and lifestyle. Too much of anything will lead to trouble and uncertainty regarding partnerships that are bound personally and professionally. Don't jeopardize your reputation. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Start something new, and you'll meet someone you click with emotionally, but before you share your secrets, make sure their intentions are honorable. Walk away from bad influences and toward those who bring out the best in you. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may want to invest time and money in home improvements or expanding a venture you hope will bring in extra cash. Enforce a budget to protect against growing too fast. A change you make will cause a problem with someone close. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Set the stage for your performance. Consider what you are trying to achieve, who you are trying to impress and how to turn your passion into something you can enjoy every day. Don't trust others to come through for you. Rely on yourself. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Build on solid ground. Simplify your plans to guarantee positive results. Do something uplifting with the skills, experience and compassion you feel for a cause or your community. Don't limit what you can do due to laziness. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Think twice; an unnecessary move will set you back. Put more effort into how you run your home; invest in yourself. Keeping up with the speed at which technology progresses will help you take advantage of a financial opportunity. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't take out your frustration on others or overreact to a situation that is sensitive or could influence your reputation. Choose to use your energy to build a solid foundation that brings about positive change. Be the one to make a difference. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are ambitious, active and outgoing. You are trendy and distinctive.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		4	7				2	6	
1				7		2			5
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Difficulty Level ★★★

1/18

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer

5	3	8	7	9	1	4	2	6
9	4	7	6	2	3	5	8	1
2	6	1	4	8	5	9	7	3
6	1	5	9	7	2	3	4	8
7	9	2	8	3	4	6	1	5
4	8	3	5	1	6	7	9	2
3	5	9	1	4	8	2	6	7
1	2	4	3	6	7	8	5	9
8	7	6	2	5	9	1	3	4

Difficulty Level ★★

1/17

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

DO YOU USE A THESAURUS?

Solution: 9 letters

S R S P E L L X I F F U S W E
Y M E A E K G U I D E R O L A
K R Y S M S I R E V E R B L R
O E U N U E W L F P D A P E T
O N E S O L C O A S E H S R I
B O P S A T T P R G A U D N C
Y I H R N E E R A E D N S A O L
R T R R E E N X E B N I E I E
A A A E A F H T E D C N R T T
S M S T R C I R E R N G A C C
S R E T R C S X E G A I L E E
O O S E A T Y R T E O P I L N
L F T L A N G U A G E R M L N
G N I N R A E L I S T S I O O
I I D I C T I O N A R Y S C C

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Alike, Alphabetical, Antonyms, Article, Book, Browse, Close, Collection, Compare, Connect, Dictionary, Glossary, Guide, Ideas, Index, Information, Interchangeable, Language, Learning, Letter, Lists, Near, Papers, Phrases, Poetry, Prefix, Read, Result, Roget, Same, Seek, Similar, Spell, Suffix, Treasury, Understand, Using, Verb, Words
Yesterday's Answer: Parking
Treasures 27, 29, 31 and 33 through 49 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Prescott outshines Brady, Cowboys dominate Buccaneers, 31-14



TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—So much for notion that Dak Prescott and the Dallas Cowboys might not be up to the challenge of beating Tom Brady.

Prescott played his best game in weeks, throwing for four touchdowns and running for another to answer critics of “America’s Team” with a 31-14 rout of Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in an NFC wild-card playoff game on Monday night.

“It just shows he’s resilient,” Cowboys linebacker Micah Parsons said. “The light’s different on Dak. I think the criticism is unfair and unjust sometimes. But the way he handles it, the way he comes back every time and shows who he truly is, it’s a credit to the work he puts in. It makes us keep believing every time.”

Prescott completed 25 of 33 passes for 305 yards and played turnover-free ball for the first time in eight games as the Cowboys (13-5) dominated the listless Bucs (8-10) in what may turn out to be Brady’s last game in a Tampa Bay uniform.

“Not the way we wanted to end it,” Brady said. “Kind of typical of the way we played all season.”

Dallas beat Brady for the first time in the seven-time Super Bowl champion’s career and won in the postseason on the road for the first time in 30 years to earn a trip to San Francisco to face the 49ers in the NFC divisional round next Sunday.

“You watched this team that had all the reasons in the world to have criticism — you can call it doubt, you can call it whatever you want — and they came back and they’re not the same team that came to



Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott (4) runs into the end zone on a touchdown carry during the first half of an NFL wild-card football game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Monday, Jan. 16, 2023, in Tampa, Fla.

town,” Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said. “They’re a better team having beaten Tampa and beaten a great player at quarterback.”

The Cowboys had dropped eight straight playoff games away from home since winning the NFC championship game in San Francisco on Jan. 17, 1993.

They were also coming off a poor performance in a lopsided regular season-ending loss to Washington.

“Didn’t listen,” Prescott said about all the talk about the Cowboys not being ready for

the playoffs.

“Simply just didn’t listen to anybody else’s opinions, anybody else’s thoughts. Made sure I was conscious of what I put in my own head,” Prescott added. “Got a great supporting cast in my team, people that believe in me. That’s all that really matters to me, and just stay focused on what I can do.”

About the only thing that went wrong for the Cowboys was kicker Brett Maher missing his first four extra points, becoming the first player in NFL history to miss that many in a game. Maher finally con-

verted on his fifth attempt after coach Mike McCarthy decided against sending him out to try a field goal from roughly the same distance as a PAT.

Tampa Bay receiver Russell Gage was strapped to a backboard and carted off the field late in the fourth quarter. Gage slipped and fell to the turf while running a route and took a blow to the neck as he went down. He was unable to get to his feet and silence fell over the stadium as players took a knee and medical personnel tended to him.

Coach Todd Bowles said

Gage was taken to a hospital with a concussion and was being evaluated for a neck injury. Gage’s injury occurred two weeks after Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin went into cardiac arrest and had to be resuscitated on the field in a Monday night game at Cincinnati.

Brady, who signed with Tampa Bay in 2020 and led the Bucs to a Super Bowl title two years ago, will be a free agent this winter. He retired briefly last February before changing his mind and returning for a 23rd season at age 45.

Brady threw a career-high 66 passes, completing 35 of them for 351 yards, including second-half touchdowns of 30 yards to Julio Jones and 8 yards to Cameron Brate. He was sacked twice and also threw a costly interception — a second-quarter, end-zone pick from the Dallas 5 that prevented the Bucs from potentially taking the lead when they were only trailing 6-0.

Prescott tossed the first of his two TD passes to Dalton Schultz to get the Cowboys going, then turned Brady’s first red-zone interception since 2019 into points by finishing a 15-play, 80-yard drive by circling left end for a 1-yard TD run on fourth down.

The Dallas quarterback expanded the lead to 18-0 with an 11-yard TD throw to Schultz, then threw 2 yards to Michael Gallup for a 24-point lead early in the third quarter. It could have been 28-0 if not for Maher missing all four extra points.

Prescott’s last TD pass, an 18-yarder to CeeDee Lamb on fourth-and-4, put the Cowboys up 31-6 with 10:13 remaining.

Little came easy this season for the Bucs, just the fourth team in NFL history to make the playoffs with a losing record in a non-strike year.

While Brady broke his own league record for completions in a season and ranked third in passing yards behind Patrick Mahomes and Justin Herbert, Tampa Bay finished 25th in scoring at 18.4 points per game and never won more than two in a row while holding off Carolina, New Orleans and Atlanta to repeat as NFC South champions.

“It’s always tough,” Brady said of the disappointing finish to the season. “But we didn’t earn it. They did.”

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—If Tom Brady retires in the offseason, he’ll walk away following one of the worst playoff games of his career.

The seven-time Super Bowl champion had a tough night against Micah Parsons and the Dallas Cowboys, tossing his first red-zone interception with the Buccaneers in a 31-14 loss that ended Tampa Bay’s up-and-down season Monday night.

Brady won’t be returning home to the Bay Area for a rematch against Brock Purdy and the San Francisco 49ers in the NFC divisional round. He may be going home for good, however.

The 45-year-old, five-time Super Bowl MVP already retired once after last season only to return 40 days later. He said he’ll take more time to make his decision this

After playoff dud, Brady faces choice of whether to continue

time around.

“It’ll be one day at a time, truly,” Brady said.

Brady waved his cap to the crowd as he jogged off the field for perhaps the final time and stopped to kiss his parents before heading into the tunnel.

Before leaving the podium, Brady thanked reporters, saying: “Hopefully, you know, I love this organization. It’s a great place to be and thank you everybody for welcoming me. ... Very grateful for the respect and hopefully I gave the same thing back to you guys.”

Brady had been 7-0 against Dallas before this game, including a 19-3 road win in Week 1.

Though he was only sacked twice, the Cowboys pressured him into several throwaways

and forced a bunch of ill-advised passes.

He threw a career-most 66 passes, completing 35 of them for 351 yards, two TDs and one interception. Brady had 65 attempts for New England against San Francisco on Dec. 16, 2012.

After the Buccaneers went three-and-out on their first two possessions, Brady led a long drive before things fell apart.

On first down from the Cowboys 22, Brady rolled to his right and had open field in front of him but threw incomplete across his body into quadruple coverage in the left corner of the end zone. A few plays later from the Cowboys 5, Brady threw the ball up for grabs in the back of the end zone where the closest player was Cowboys safety Jayron

Kearse, who made the pick.

“Not the way we wanted to end it but we didn’t deserve it,” Brady said. “Give them credit. They played a good game, made a lot more plays than we did.”

Brady hadn’t been shut out in the first half of playoff game since his first one in 2001, the Tuck Rule game on Jan. 19, 2002. The Patriots rallied to beat the Raiders in that game.

Brady and the Bucs (8-10) had no chance for a comeback against Dallas (13-5). Parsons and Co. dominated Brady from start to finish.

“It was typical of the way we played all year, inefficient in the pass game, not very good in the run game, so it’s hard to beat good teams like that,” Brady said.

The Bucs finally found the

end zone when Brady connected with Julio Jones on a 30-yard TD pass right before the end of the third quarter. But Tampa’s defense gave a TD right back and the Bucs couldn’t score after reaching the Cowboys 2 on their next drive.

Brady’s worst playoff loss was 33-14 to the Baltimore Ravens on Jan. 10, 2010. This one came close.

It was a tumultuous season personally for Brady. His marriage to Gisele Bündchen ended when they announced in October that their divorce was finalized. He had the first losing season of his 23-year career, though the Buccaneers won the woeful NFC South and earned the No. 4 seed.

Brady is set to become a free agent, so he could choose to continue his unprecedented

career with another team. There will be plenty of interest in a player who turns 46 in training camp next season.

The Buccaneers want him back if he continues to play. Linebacker Lavonte David said he’ll wait a few weeks before recruiting him.

Brady showed he has plenty left in the regular season despite playing behind an injury-depleted offensive line and without star tight end Rob Gronkowski, who retired in the offseason. He broke his own NFL record for completions in a single season with 490, led the NFC with 4,694 yards and had 25 touchdowns with nine interceptions.

Brady owns nearly every NFL passing record, has won more championships than any player in the sport and is destined for the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Not bad for a sixth-round draft pick.

VanVleet scores 33 points, Raptors beat Knicks 123-121 in OT



NEW YORK (AP)—Fred VanVleet scored 33 points, Scottie Barnes had 26 points and the Toronto Raptors recovered in overtime after RJ Barrett's tying slam with 0.6 seconds left in regulation to beat the New York Knicks 123-121 on Monday.

Pascal Siakam had 20 points, nine assists and eight rebounds for the Raptors, but he was on the bench after fouling out when Toronto had to wait out Jalen Brunson's missed 3-pointer in the final second before emerging with the victory.

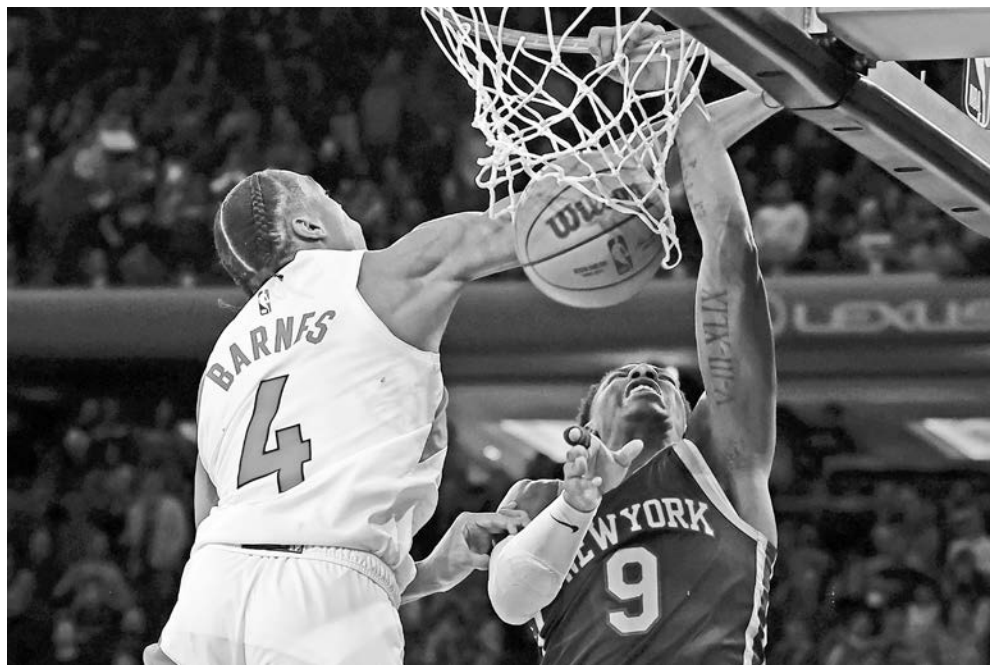
O.G. Anunoby hit two 3-pointers in overtime as Toronto built a six-point lead, but New York nearly erased that in the final minute.

Barrett, who is from Toronto, scored 32 points and Brunson had 26 for the Knicks, who had their three-game winning streak snapped. Julius Randle finished with 21 points, 15 rebounds and eight assists.

Lakers 140, Rockets 132

In Los Angeles, LeBron James had a season-high 48 points, nine assists and eight rebounds in his third 40-point performance since turning 38 less than three weeks ago, and Los Angeles snapped a three-game skid with a victory over struggling Houston.

Russell Westbrook scored 24 for the Lakers, who never pulled away in another poor defensive game. James' brilliance in the 100th 40-point outing of his ca-



New York Knicks guard RJ Barrett (9) dunks in front of Toronto Raptors forward Scottie Barnes (4) at the end of the second half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Jan. 16, 2023, in New York.

reer—including the postseason—was just enough to hold off NBA-worst Houston.

Alperen Sengun scored a career-best 33 points in the Rockets' 11th consecutive loss. Sengun, the 20-year-old Turkish center, went 14 of 17 from the field and added 15 rebounds and six assists.

Houston has lost 16 of 17, dropping into last in the overall NBA standings at 10-34.

Warriors 127, Wizards 118

In Washington, Stephen Curry scored 41 points and Jordan Poole added 32 points to help Golden State beat Washington.

Golden State had lost four of five coming into the game.

Draymond Green had 17 points, 10 assists and

six rebounds.

Kristaps Porzingis led Washington with 32 points. Kyle Kuzma added 16 points, 11 rebounds and five assists, but struggled from the field, where he was only 5 for 20.

Grizzlies 136, Suns 106

In Memphis, Tenn., Ja Morant scored 29 points, Desmond Bane added 28 and Memphis extended its season-high winning streak to 10 games with a victory over injury-depleted Phoenix.

The Suns played without starters Chris Paul and Devin Booker. Paul missed his fifth straight game with a right hip injury. Booker has not played since Christmas Day because of a groin injury.

Mikal Bridges scored 21 points and Deandre Ayton added 18 for the Suns, who lost for the ninth time in 10 games.

Jaren Jackson Jr. contributed 18 points and six blocks for the Grizzlies, who did not play Morant or Dillon Brooks in the fourth quarter when Memphis stretched its lead to as many as 36 points.

Memphis also scored 130 or more points for the third straight game, matching the franchise-record run of last February.

Celtics 130, Hornets 118

In Charlotte, N.C., Jayson Tatum had 51 points, including seven 3-pointers, and Boston beat Charlotte for the second time in three days.

Derrick White added 19

points and eight assists and Malcolm Brogdon scored 16 for the Celtics.

Tatum was 15 of 23 from the field and 14 of 14 from the foul line.

Jalen McDaniels led the Hornets with a career-high 26 points on 5-of-7 shooting from 3-point range. LaMelo Ball finished with 25 points on 8-of-23 shooting.

Bucks 132, Pacers 119

In Milwaukee, Jrue Holiday scored a season-high 35 points to go along with 11 assists and Milwaukee beat Indiana without two-time MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo.

The Bucks played a third consecutive game without Antetokounmpo due to left knee soreness. The Pacers were missing leading scorer and NBA assists leader Tyrese Haliburton for a third straight game due to a left elbow sprain and a mild left knee bone bruise.

Holiday shot 13 of 19 overall and 5 of 8 from 3-point range while collecting his third straight double-double.

Myles Turner returned for Indiana after missing three games with back spasms and scored 30 points. T.J. McConnell added a career-high 29 points and had nine assists.

Cavaliers 113, Pelicans 103

In Cleveland, Darius Garland scored 30 points, Jarrett Allen added 24 and Cleveland rallied in the fourth quarter with star Donovan Mitchell injured on the bench to beat New Orleans.

Mitchell scored 11 points in

22 minutes before sitting out the fourth with a strained left groin.

The Pelicans were once again without stars Zion Williamson (strained hamstring) and Brandon Ingram (bruised toe).

C.J. McCollum scored 25 and Jonas Valanciunas had 22 and 13 rebounds for the Pelicans.

Hawks 121, Heat 113

In Atlanta, Dejounte Murray scored 12 of his 28 points in the final period as Atlanta held off Miami's comeback attempt.

Trae Young added 24 points as the Hawks, who never trailed, moved back to .500 with the win.

Miami had its three-game winning streak end despite Jimmy Butler's 34 points. Bam Adebayo added 20 points and 13 rebounds.

Jazz 126, Timberwolves 125

In Minneapolis, Walker Kessler had career highs of 20 points and 21 rebounds, Jordan Clarkson added 21 points and Utah rallied from a 10-point deficit in the fourth quarter to beat Minnesota.

Collin Sexton added 19 points off the bench for Utah, which had seven players score in double digits in its third win in four games.

Anthony Edwards scored 17 of his 29 points in the third quarter and D'Angelo Russell added 21 points for Minnesota.

Kyle Anderson had 13 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for the Timberwolves, who lost Rudy Gobert to lingering groin soreness early in the game.

Nadal struggles at times during 4-set win at Australian Open



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Rafael Nadal

never truly seemed in danger of becoming the first Australian Open defending men's champion to lose in the first round since his current coach, Carlos Moya, managed to beat Boris Becker a quarter of a century ago.

Still, this was not a vintage performance by Nadal, who came into Monday's match-up against 21-year-old Jack Draper with an 0-2 record in 2023 and six losses in his past seven outings overall. After nearly two hours of so-so play, Nadal found himself even at a set apiece.

He appeared to be pulling away, taking advantage of his opponent's bout with cramps on an afternoon with the temperature at about 85 degrees Fahrenheit (30 Celsius), when suddenly Draper went up by a break in the fourth set. From there, though, Nadal would not drop another game, begin-

ning his pursuit of a record-extending 23rd Grand Slam championship with a 7-5, 2-6, 6-4, 6-1 win that took more than 3 1/2 hours in Rod Laver Arena.

"I need a victory, so that's the main thing," Nadal said. "Doesn't matter the way."

That's good, then, because the 36-year-old from Spain was not in peak form. All in all, it was a bit of a struggle. He tried to put a silver-lining spin on things, nonetheless, given his recent track record and knowing that he tore an abdominal muscle twice in the past six months.

"I was humble enough to accept that (there were) going to be a little bit of ups and downs during the match," Nadal said. "(That's a) typical thing when you are not in a winning mood."

Both men are left-handers, but that is pretty much where the similarities end, whether in terms of style or age or experience or accomplishments.

Nadal, who is seeded No. 1 because top-ranked Car-

los Alcaraz is sidelined with an injury, is appearing in his 67th Grand Slam tournament. Draper, ranked a career-best No. 38 this week, was making his fourth trip to a major and his best showing was getting to the third round at the U.S. Open last September.

Draper also has faced problems dealing with steamy conditions: In his ATP Tour debut at the Miami Open in March 2021, he collapsed on court and needed to stop playing after one set.

"Real honor to play against him, someone I've idolized growing up. To go toe-to-toe with him on a big court like that is special," Draper said. "I can take away the fact that my tennis is getting closer and closer. And physically, I'll be first to say I'm still a work in progress."

This time, signs of trouble showed up early, and Draper was treated by a trainer during changeovers. Later, he massaged his right thigh between points.

Nadal, not surprisingly,

wore Draper down from the baseline, engaging in exchanges before finding an opening to yank a big forehand this way or that.

"When you win matches, you are more relaxed," Nadal said. "You are more confident."

His next opponent will be Mackie McDonald, a past NCAA champion at UCLA who won an all-American matchup against Brandon Nakashima that lasted 4 hours by a 7-6 (5), 7-6 (1), 1-6, 6-7 (10), 6-4 score.

The No. 1-seeded woman, Iga Swiatek, followed Nadal into Laver for the night session and found herself in a tight second set before reeling off the last four games to eliminate 69th-ranked Jule Niemeier 6-4, 7-5.

Americans Jessica Pegula, Coco Gauff and Danielle Collins, the 2022 runner-up at Melbourne Park, also reached the second round with straight-set victories Monday, and 2017 U.S. Open finalist Madison Keys won in three

sets. Others advancing included 2019 U.S. Open champion Bianca Andreescu, 2021 U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu and sixth-seeded Maria Sakkari, while two-time Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka got past 2020 winner Sofia Kenin 6-4, 7-6 (3).

There were plenty of other major titlists on the packed Day 1 schedule, with Petra Kvitova, Elena Rybakina, Jelena Ostapenko and Barbora Krejickova among the winners. But three-time Slam champ Stan Wawrinka bowed out with a 6-7 (3), 6-3, 1-6, 7-6 (2), 6-4 loss to Alex Molcan.

The biggest surprise of the day came off the court: the withdrawal of Wimbledon finalist Nick Kyrgios, who needs surgery on his left knee.

"I'm devastated, obviously," said Kyrgios, a 27-year-old from Australia who won the men's doubles championship at Melbourne Park a year ago.

Men who moved on included No. 3-seeded Stefanos Tsit-

sipas, No. 6 Felix Auger-Aliassime, No. 10 Hubert Hurkacz, No. 16 Frances Tiafoe and No. 20 Denis Shapovalov. Daniil Medvedev, the 2021 U.S. Open champion and the runner-up in Melbourne the past two years, breezed past Marcos Giron of the U.S. 6-0, 6-1, 6-2 at night.

The No. 3-seeded Pegula overwhelmed Jaqueline Cristian of Romania 6-0, 6-1 in just 59 minutes, No. 7 Gauff overcame a second-set wobble to beat Katerina Siniakova 6-1, 6-4, and No. 13 Collins had her left knee treated and taped up while defeating Anna Kalinskaya 7-5, 5-7, 6-4.

Pegula and Gauff could meet in the semifinals; Collins could play Swiatek in the fourth round.

"Today is just one of those days everything was working," said Pegula, a quarter-finalist in Melbourne each of the past two years. "Always feels good when you win a match like that. I think when those days come you just kind of take it and don't complain and don't critique. You kind of just move on to the next one."

Marianas Ekiden '23 relay on Feb. 18

By LEIGH GASES

leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The third installment of the Marianas Ekiden '23 relay race is set for Feb. 18 at 5:30am, which will run through the 21-kilometer official Saipan Half Marathon course from the Micro Beach in Garapan to the Pacific Islands Club Saipan in San Antonio and back.

This year's race will go back to its original format in 2021 in which participants who register on race roster as individual runners will be put into a lottery and be assigned in a team of a total of four participants.

In teams of four, each runner will complete one of the four stages of 5K, 5K, 5K, and 6K in order, totaling the distance of a half marathon. It is not just a test of speed, but also of tactics, as you determine who is best suited to complete each leg.

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. said, "We are only going to take up to 60 runners, which will be 15 teams. This year, we made participant T-shirts and we know people will love them... We will be flipping every year from medals to shirts. Last



MARK RABAGO

From left, captain Chong Nam Lee, Michael Denevan, Ayano Braxton, and Lily Muldoon of Team Run Saipan topped the competitive division of the Inaugural Marianas Ekiden from Micro Beach in Garapan to just before Pacific Islands Club Saipan in San Antonio and back held last February.

year there were medals and this year there are T-shirts."

Basically, Dela Cruz said since 2023 is an odd number year, the format will be a random lottery team format and T-shirt prize, while even number years will be medals and self-made team format.

Follow the official Facebook page Run Saipan,

which Run Saipan will hold the first officially broadcasted Mariana's Ekiden Draft on February 15 at 6pm. People will be assigned to Ekiden Teams 1 to 15.

Register on <https://raceroster.com/events/2023/70371/marianas-ekiden-23>

Team Run Saipan won the

Marianas Ekiden '22, which was led by team captain and barefoot runner Chong Nam Lee and with Lily Muldoon, Michael Denevan, and Ayano Braxton. They finished the run in 1:32:38 to win the competitive division.

Braxton, Muldoon, and Denevan each tackled the first 5K increments of the

race before Lee anchored the team by finishing the 6K part.

Saipan International School '22 was the only team entered in the competitive division with skipper Rex Pixley, Tiana Cabrera, Jesse Sablan, and Serin Chung crossing the finish line in 1:46:45.

In the non-competitive division, Team KNAS4 actually had the fastest time and topped the non-competitive division with a time of 1:29:11.

Captain Kasuke Sato said his team was supposed to enter the competitive division, but their other female runner, Akiko Miller, was indisposed. Miller was replaced by Taro Goto and the rest of the team was made up of Shuji Kuroda and Noriko Jim.

Coming in second in the non-competitive division was Running Bikers of captain Floro Derexes, Edgar Abalos, Ronald Villafria, and Arvin Velasco with a time of 1:47:38.

Third in the non-competitive division was the all-women's team of Run

Saipan Pacemakers led by skipper Rosemarie Chisato with members Evelyn Pangelinan, Jessica Ortizo, and Ann Bang. They finished the race in 1:51:49.

A total of 12 teams took part in the face-to-face version of the Inaugural Marianas Ekiden with other teams opting for the virtual option.

The rest of the teams that joined

the non-competitive division are Marianas Ekiden 2 in 1:57:02 (Robyn Spaeth, Kathy Ruszala, Michael Mancao, and Simon Necesito), Arguably Descent in 1:58:11 (Brad Ruszala, Trey Dunn, Travis Spaeth, and Robby Glass), Marianas Ekiden 1 in 2:02:02 (Denise Myers, Sildrey Velloria, Moji De Luna, and Kurt Songsong), Go Extra Mile in 2:26:50 (Eric Abagan, Sharon Abagan, Christian Joseph Yap, and Laarni Zapanta), GXM ENC in 2:28:58 (Daryll De Luna, Jeddiah Peteru, Dylon DeLeon Guerrero, and Duncan Laxa), Scrambled Legs in 2:29:47 (Margie Camu, Nicole Delon Guerrero, Limuel Bernal, and Aaron Pamintuan), and GXM Jr. in 3:07:57 (Barbara Peteru, Heart Mariell De Luna, Alyssa Omampo, and Alan Peteru).

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time of 01:56:42.

Bang started Day 1 on top with a time of 54:56, slipped to second place on Day 2 with a time of 37:21, then returned to first place on Day 3 with a time of 24:55.

Rosemarie Chisato came a close second with an overall time of 01:57:37. Her race Day 1 time was 55:14, which gave her second place; her Day 2 time of 36:33 placed her first; and her Day 3 time of 25:50 placed her second.

Third place went to Terra Allen with an overall time of 02:05:25. Her race Day 1 time was 57:46; her Day 2

race time was 40:21; and her race Day 3 time was 27:18.

For his part, the almost 40-year-old Taflinger said winning first place overall was "really cool. We just moved here last July so it's kind of our first big Run Saipan event."

The Marianas High School science and biology teacher said that he just got into running last year and that it's been fun so far.

As for the three-day running event, he said that it was challenging, but fun at the same time. "It was challenging—a grueling three days, but the competition was fun."

He said that the toughest course was definitely the laborious trek up Mt. Tapochao

on Day 2, referring to the sharpest and steepest incline going up the mountain which was dubbed "Heartbreak Hill" by runners. "The hills, the elevation change. Going up Heartbreak Hill is just brutal. You have to walk but you just have to continually push—one step in front of the other. You just know there's going to be a flat part when you get to the top but that's all you're thinking about—getting a chance to get a little downhill and get a breather."

With placing first overall, Taflinger said that he knew he had to win at least second or third in the races, so he thanked Run Saipan for the update after the Day 2 race. "I knew kind of where I stood

and so I kind of knew to push myself and go all out—just leave it all out on that course every time."

For Bang's part, she said "It was not easy for me to complete consecutive races for three days, but I tried to enjoy this event like a festival!"

Also, the Mt. Tapochao 5K was the hardest course for her as she said that she is not good at uphill running.

But overall, Bang said the "Trinity Run 2023 was meaningful for me because it was my first win overall, and the last year of my 40s. From next year, my age division will be changed to 50-54."

She then said, "I would like to thank all board members

and volunteers of Run Saipan, and Mr. Robin Sapong for their hard work and efforts. Before being a member of Run Saipan, I always ran alone, but after becoming a member, I got my precious friends and learned friendships. I hope many more residents will run together with us, and of course, I'll run the Trinity Run 2024 next year!"

The annual Isle of Man Easter Festival of Running in the British Isles inspired Dr. Ron Snyder to create the inaugural three-day running event on Saipan.

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. said after the event, "The runners really took it to the [next] level

today. We had only 50 slots because we only wanted the 50 of the most daring runners in the CNMI to take part in this race. We capped off at 50 and we had a good amount of participation for all three days and everyone came here with destroyed legs but they did an amazing job to get this done."

He gave the winners a big congratulations and said "for them to be the Top 3 fastest for men and women in the first three day race, that's an amazing job. Most people wake up the next morning thinking they're not going to be able to run the next race, but they did it again and again and again... You guys made history."

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athletes is having an adequate place and space to train. Hopefully that will be resolved, somewhat, at the beginning of 2023," he said.

As for events for the new year, the CNMI Weightlifting president said they already kicked off 2023 with the staging of the Northern Marianas Cup Weightlifting Tournament last Jan. 7 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

He said they are also planning to have a mini-competition in February and March.

"Once the Ada Gym is fully available we plan to have one competition each quarter. Once the national team is selected we plan to compete in the Micronesian Games in July and the Pacific Games in November," he said.

Davis also took the opportunity to thank the following for helping CNMI Weightlifting succeed in 2022.

"We would like to thank Mr. Derek Cutting of Latte Built for making space for us to train. He now sponsors a Barbell Club which is led by Mini Games silver medalist and 2021 Oceania gold medalist Antonette La-

bausa. We would also like to thank Mr. Paul Coffa, Ms. Lilly Coffa, and their team of technical officials for making the 2022 NMI Pacific Mini Games weightlifting event a truly spectacular success. I'd also like to thank the Public School System and Board of Education chair Greg Borja, and PSS Athletics Program director Nick Gross and staff for their extraordinary efforts in preparing the Mini Games venue. Last, but certainly not least, I'd like to thank Ms. Jeanne Rayphand for her often unappreciated work in keeping the weightlifting federation running," he said.

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He admitted though that while the CNMI fell short of the goal as the men's and women's national teams finished third and second, respectively, in the tournament, he was hoping the islands' basketball teams would somehow secure wildcard entries to the quadrennial event.

"There is a wildcard slot which comes down to the most active federation plus their performance in the game. Though our federation has been very active within the past year, unfortunately our game performance is not quite there yet."

Lee said not qualifying for the Pacific Games could actually be a blessing in disguise, as this would motivate their men's and women's teams to improve more in order to perform better in future regional competitions.

"Truth is, based on how we performed at the Micro Cup, we wouldn't be competitive at this coming Pacific Games. We still have some work to do but I believe we're on the right track. Establishing a national program and modernizing our 'culture' with training as an athlete that wants to represent our home is the first step."

The Solomon Islands recently confirmed the eight-team lineup for the basketball compe-

tion for both men and women of the Honiara Pacific Games.

The men's teams that qualified for the Pacific Games are Guam, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, French Polynesia, Fiji, Samoa, and Tonga.

Teams from Guam, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, the Cook Islands, the Solomon Islands, Samoa, French Polynesia, and New Caledonia, meanwhile, will duke it out in the women's tournament.

The Pacific Games serves as a qualifying event for the Asian Cup and in turn for the FIBA World Cup. The basketball competition of the Pacific Games is scheduled to begin on Nov. 19.



Prescott outshines
Brady, Cowboys
dominate
Buccaneers, 31-14
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Marianas
Ekiden '23 relay
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Taflinger, Bang series overall champs



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chad Taflinger, center, is the men's division overall champion for all three races in the Inaugural Run Saipan Trinity '23. He is joined by second place Joel Buco, third place Chong Nam Lee, and Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr., far right, Run Saipan treasurer/secretary Dr. Ron Snyder, third from right, and Run Saipan board member Robin Sapong, far left.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

In a grueling way to start the year off with three back-to-back races, the Inaugural Run Saipan Trinity '23 during the Martin Luther King Jr. weekend has finally ended with Chad Taflinger and Ann Bang claiming the overall championship of all three races in the awarding ceremony Monday at the Beach Road Pathway in Oleai.

Tallies of all three race times from the Saturday, Jan. 14, Day 1 Kensington to Marpi and back 10K course, the Sunday, Jan. 15, Day 2 Mt. Tapochao 1-way 5K course, and the Monday, Jan. 16, Day 3 Oleai Beach Road Pathway 5K course, decided the overall winners in the men's and women's division.

Taflinger owned the fastest overall time of 01:43:52, earning him the gold medal. His Day 1 time was 49:02, his Day 2 time was 32:49, and his Day 3 time was 22:01.

Second to him was Joel Buco with an overall time of 01:45:39. His Day 1 time was 51:08, his Day 2 time was 31:36, and his Day 3 time

was 22:55.

Bronze went to Chong Nam Lee with an overall time of 01:49:43. His Day 1 race time was 49:43; his Day 2 race time was 36:56; and his Day 3 race time was 22:54.

In the women's division, Bang conquered all scenic race day courses and came out the overall champion with a

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ann Bang, center, is the women's division overall champion for all three races in the Inaugural Run Saipan Trinity '23. She is joined by second place Rosemarie Chisato, third place Terra Allen, and Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr., far right, Run Saipan treasurer/secretary Dr. Ron Snyder, third from right, and Run Saipan board member Robin Sapong, far left.

Mini Games medal rush buoys CNMI Weightlifting



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI National Weightlifting Team in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 poses with Northern Marianas Sports Association president Jerry Tan and other NMSA officials during the Team NMI Celebration Dinner last July at Kensington Resort.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

By virtue of getting the lion's share of the CNMI historic medal haul in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022, local weightlifters' performance in the quadren-

nial event was hands down the biggest achievement of CNMI Weightlifting last year.

"Along with the successful hosting of the Mini Games and Oceania Championships, once again CNMI Weightlifting more

than carried its own weight (pun intended) in the NMI medal count, accounting for over 60% of the medals earned for the CNMI," said CNMI Weightlifting president John Davis.

At par with CNMI weight-

lifters bagging 11 gold, 10 silver, and two bronze medals, Davis said he's equally impressed how the organization's leadership pulled off hosting an almost flawless weightlifting competition in both the Mini Games and 2022 Oceania Senior Weightlifting Championships.

"Despite many challenges and roadblocks presented along the way, the Pacific weightlifting community had nothing but praise for our hard work."

CNMI weightlifters leading the islands' medal charge in the Mini Games came even as the sport continues to lack a training facility and that, Davis said, continues to be on top of CNMI Weightlifting's wish list.

"What was then and continues to be the biggest challenge for CNMI weightlifting

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No wildcard entry for CNMI in Pacific Games



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation president James Lee takes a selfie while posing with the CNMI men's and women's national teams during the awards ceremony of last June's 2022 FIBA Micronesian Cup in Guam.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Despite its best efforts, the CNMI didn't get a wildcard entry to the basketball competition of the 2023 Pacific Games in the Solomon Islands this

November.

Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation president James Lee said last June's FIBA Micronesian Cup in Guam was a qualifier for the Pacific Games and only the first place team gets an automatic slot.

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